

Liberty University

**A Study of Hunger Relief-Based Outreach as a Model of Church Growth for the
Unattractive Church: The Gospel Grocery Wagon**

A Thesis Project Report Submitted to
the Faculty of the School of Divinity
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by

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A STUDY OF HUNGER RELIEF-BASED OUTREACH AS A MODEL OF CHURCH GROWTH FOR THE UNATTRACTIVE CHURCH: THE GOSPEL GROCERY WAGON.

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The purpose of the research project is to create a strategy for Under Over Fellowship to engage the immediate low socio-economic, cross-cultural, and multi-racial community with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to see those who make professions of faith in Jesus Christ become active members of Under Over Fellowship. This model of church growth will be facilitated through the combination of servant evangelism and long-term hunger relief. This method will provide a comfortable and non-confrontational way for members of Under Over Fellowship to build relationships and share the gospel with the residents of the low-income apartment complexes and trailer parks that exist in the surrounding area of Under Over Fellowship's physical location. The study will attempt to measure three areas that will reveal success. Phase One: Did the Team Members grow in their faith and understanding of Christ as they served and shared the gospel and did the recipients of the food delivery receive the gospel and surrender to Christ? Phase Two: Did Team Members engage those that made professions of faith in discipleship and did the recipients of the gospel engage in Front Porch Bible Studies? Phase 3: Did Team Members build a relationship with those that engaged in Front Porch Bible Studies and did those that engaged in Front Porch Bible Studies eventually integrate into corporate worship at Under Over Fellowship?

Contents

Chapter One	1
Introduction	1
Ministry Context	2
Statement of the Problem	9
Purpose Statement	11
Delimitations	13
Limitations	14
Assumptions	14
Definitions	16
Thesis Statement	20
Chapter Two	21
Review of Literature	21
Theological Framework	35
<i>Mark 6:34-37a</i>	35
<i>Matthew 28:19-20</i>	38
<i>1 Corinthians 9:16-39</i>	39
<i>Matthew 9:10-13</i>	40
<i>James 2:14-17</i>	41
<i>Matthew 25:31-40</i>	42
<i>Deuteronomy 24:19-21</i>	43
<i>Psalms 109</i>	44
<i>Proverbs 21:13</i>	45

<i>Proverbs 25:21</i>	46
Theoretical Framework	47
Chapter 3	53
Intervention Design.....	53
<i>John 14:6 Evangelism Training</i>	55
<i>Gospel Grocery Wagon Training</i>	58
<i>John 14:6 Front Porch Bible Study Training</i>	59
<i>Data Collection</i>	63
Implementation of Intervention Design	69
Evaluating Success.....	74
Chapter 4	80
Results.....	80
<i>Attendance</i>	81
<i>Prayer, Gospel Shares, and Professions of Faith</i>	83
<i>John 14:6 Front Porch Bible Study/Integration into Under Over Fellowship</i>	85
<i>Pre and Post Survey</i>	88
<i>Judging Success</i>	108
Chapter 5	112
Conclusion	112
The Work Continues	115
New Partners	116
The Gospel Grocery Wagon As A Classroom.....	119
Saturday Grocery Giveaway	120

Building Community Relationships.....	121
Going Global.....	123
Final Words.....	125
Appendix.....	127
Appendix 1: Daily Journal.....	127
Appendix 2: Gospel Grocery Wagon Response Form.....	158
Appendix 3: Project Participants Pre-Project Survey	159
Appendix 4: Project Participants Post-Project Survey.....	160
Appendix 5: Project Participant Letter	161
Appendix 6: Project Participant Consent Form	162
Appendix 7: Gospel Grocery Wagon Field Log	164
Appendix 8: John 14:6 Front Porch Bible Studies	165
Bibliography	169

Chapter One

Introduction

Local churches in America outsource ministry daily, and the result of the handoff creates a distance and a lack of relevance from and in the immediate community in which it exists. Servant evangelism facilitates a positive low-risk way for the local church to reconnect with the community as well as a real way to see the Gospel seed planted, watered, and harvested.¹ Meeting the physical need of people who are hurting, and partnering that met need with evangelism and discipleship is a pattern that holds to the mission of the early church and should be the mission of the church today.

Under Over Fellowship is the name of the church in Conroe, TX that this project leader planted, and currently serves as lead pastor. Reconnecting the local church to the community while partnering the Biblical mandate given in the Gospels in the miracle of the feeding of the five thousand daily motivates Under Over Fellowship's leadership. This miraculous story is recorded in all four gospels and the Lord used it to lead to the planting of Under Over Fellowship. The miracle begins after Jesus had finished preaching to a large group of people who were like sheep without a shepherd, the disciples approached Jesus requesting that he send the crowd away to the nearest town so that they could feed themselves. Jesus' response to that request is recorded in Mark 6.

“But he answered them, “You give them something to eat.” And they said to him, “Shall we go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread and give it to them to eat?” And he

¹ Alvin Reid and David Wheeler, *Servant Evangelism: Showing and Sharing The* (Middletown, DE: Gospel Advance Books, 2015), 31.

said to them, “How many loaves do you have? Go and see.” And when they had found out, they said, “Five, and two fish.” (Mark 6:37-38)²

Christ himself charged the disciples to meet the physical needs of those without a shepherd as he met their spiritual needs with the Gospel. This marriage of evangelism and hunger relief becomes the foundation and model for this project. The hope is to challenge the congregation of Under Over Fellowship to engage the local community by meeting its spiritual needs through servant evangelism while at the same time meeting the physical needs of the community through hunger relief. Thus, resulting in a new model for church growth for an “unattractational church”³ like Under Over Fellowship. The unattractational church is a church model that has none of the modern comforts of the American church, is not program-driven, and is Gospel-centric. This church model uses its assets both liquid and physical to fulfill the glorification of God through the equipping of the Saints, and the reaching of the lost with the gospel of Jesus Christ. This church model gears its budget to give at least 50% away in missions, uses its facilities 24 hours a day for the sake of the gospel, and designs its ministry to reach the poor and the marginalized.

Ministry Context

To understand the vision that led to the beginning of Under Over Fellowship, the reader needs to know a small history of the ministry journey of this project leader. This calling to ministry began as a bi-vocational youth minister while working as a junior high school football coach in a poor rural area. This combination of professions led to access to many teens that

² Unless otherwise noted, all references from the Bible are from the English Standard Version Bible Updated Edition.

³ The term “unattractational church” is a term that is used by this project leader to best describe the model of church that best fits Under Over Fellowship. It will be defined in detail in the “Ministry Context” and “Definitions” portion of this project.

desired to come to church. A bus ministry was begun to make sure that the students coached at school had an opportunity to be a part of church ministry as well. Opposition to the types of students brought in on the bus route started almost immediately because of a lack of “church manners” and because the church did not want to spend resources on a group of students whose parents did not also attend church and therefore did not participate in increasing the tithe base. Years of struggling to justify bringing children from low-income areas to church and constant rejection for ways to integrate them into worship as valuable members of the church led to a closer look at the poor and marginalized from a new perspective. Understanding that the local church, one that was very special to this project leader, rejected the opportunity to minister to the fatherless, the poor, and those who had never known of the love of a church family created a desire to minister specifically to these people.

A later ministry opportunity as a first-time pastor led to a new struggle that would ultimately help define the vision of Under Over Fellowship. The church had an active church roster of 30-40 members consisting of several families that had been a part of the congregation for many decades and a large group of senior citizens. This church had a large facility that was paid for but cost more money to maintain than was affordable due to the decline in church attendance. Again, this ministry opportunity led to a bi-vocational pastor position because the church was unable to afford a full-time salary. This body of believers chose for several years to continue to pay high utility payments for a building that sat empty approximately 163 out of the 168 hours in a week simply because any new ministry, inside or outside of the building, would either increase utility payments or take money away from normal utility payments. These major struggles faced during early ministry helped lay a foundation for a church plant that would

specifically reach out to people that society overlooks: a church plant that never put the maintenance of a building before the importance of the Great Commission.

The Lord called the Vineyard family home to begin this work. Finding like-minded individuals, couples, and families that desired ministry experiences outside of the walls of the church became the first task to planting this church. Many of these families came from within congregations that this project leader had previously ministered, and they looked forward to a church design different from anything they had previously experienced.

Under Over Fellowship was therefore planted as a Southern Baptist Convention and Baptist General Convention of Texas church plant and first met in March of 2011. The church plant in Conroe, TX resides 40 miles north of Houston. Conroe's once modest population as a small railroad town found itself enveloped in the rapid growth of its suburban Houston neighbor. A 2016 U.S. Census report named Conroe the fastest growing city in the nation with a 7.8% population growth.⁴ This exponential growth set the stage for church planting and church revitalization in the Conroe area. It also opened doors for unconventional church plants like Under Over Fellowship. The population of the City of Conroe, as reported by the U.S. Census in July of 2018, was 87,654 with 32% of that population reporting as Hispanic or Latino.⁵

Foundationally, Under Over resembles the great majority of Southern Baptist churches in America today. Built upon the Word of God, this council-led church has a membership of 43 active members plus children that ministers to hundreds throughout the week. However, as alike as it is foundationally to most Southern Baptist churches, it could not be more different in its

⁴ Kathryn Vasel, "*These Are the Fastest-Growing Cities in the U.S.*," CNN Money, June 02, 2017, https://money.cnn.com/gallery/real_estate/2017/06/02/fastest-growing-cities-census/index.html.

⁵ "*United States Census Bureau*," United States Census Bureau, July 1, 2018, <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/conroecitytexas#>.

operation. Under Over Fellowship could be described as an unattractual church model. As mentioned earlier, for a church to be considered an unattractual church it must strive to give up as many of the modern comforts of the American church as possible. This model of church is not program-driven and is Gospel-centric. Using its resources differently regardless of if those resources are financial, buildings, or people. The unattractual church uses its liquid and physical assets to fulfill the glorification of God through the equipping of the Saints, and the reaching of the lost with the gospel of Jesus Christ. The goal of this model is to give at least 50% of the yearly budget away to missions, uses its facilities 24 hours a day for the sake of the gospel, and designs its ministry to reach the poor and the marginalized. Being an unattractual church has less to do with being the opposite of an attractual church and more to do with how the church fellowships, ministers, use what the Lord has given it, and who the church will or will not join in partnership. This project leader refers to this as the five B's: How the church equips the Brethren, how the church ministers to the Broken, How the church manages the Budget, how the church uses its Buildings, and with whom the church will conduct Business. Once again, it is not that Under Over Fellowship is the opposite of the attractual church but rather Under Over Fellowship demands a physical, emotional, and spiritual rigor that is different from most modern American church environments.

Under Over Fellowship meets 50 Sundays a year outside in a local park rain or shine and serves breakfast and lunch. Meeting outside in a local park creates an environment that is less overwhelming and more inviting for the homeless and marginalized that could slip through the cracks at most traditional churches. It also provides a cost-effective place to gather without the need for a building. This outdoor venue has electricity for sound systems, bathrooms for the public, and pavilions for shade and comes at no cost to the church since it is a nonprofit. Being a

member of Under Over Fellowship requires the congregation to worship outside of normal American church comfort zones. Texas summer temperatures can easily reach the low 100s as well as have 80-90% humidity while winter temperatures can drop down into the low 30s for weeks at a time. The endurance of the Texas weather, whether it be hot or cold, is one of the reasons that would classify Under Over Fellowship as an unattractive church. On Sunday mornings in August, there are a lot of other churches that would be easier to attend due to the physical accommodations that other churches in the area offer. Other characteristics required of those who are members of Under Over Fellowship include a servant's heart, the ability to work with those struggling with addiction and mental illness, and knowledge that real ministry is rarely pretty, rarely easy, and never without personal sacrifice. This would be another reason that Under Over Fellowship would be described as an unattractive church model. The final reason for classifying Under Over Fellowship as this model of church has to do with who the church will do business with. This body of believers has come to the agreement that it will not participate with nor will it support parachurch ministries. It is the opinion of this project leader, that although they do good, that parachurch ministries are not the best vehicle to reach the nations with the gospel and that these types of entities decrease the relevance and effectiveness of the local church within a community. Preaching the gospel and making disciples is the job that has been given to the local church and it alone has been equipped by the Savior to fulfill the Great Commission.

As ministry opportunities grew, Under Over Fellowship felt the call to do more for those men and women desiring to escape a life spent on the streets but that had no marketable skills to provide for themselves. Desiring to provide these skills while coupling them with Gospel intervention first led Under Over to purchase property in its third year of existence. The church

has structured its by-laws to make sure that 50% of all resources that the Lord provides goes back into local, national, or international missions. Giving to the Cooperative Program, supporting individual missionaries, and implementing local ministry in the Conroe area as well as across the world helps us accomplish this goal. The church's by-laws also state that all owned property must be used 24 hours a day for Kingdom use. This is accomplished by providing housing for men and women in the residential programs offered by Under Over Fellowship, providing job training to those men and women, and housing a day shelter that provides basic needs to the homeless. These two aspects of the business of Under Over Fellowship also characterize Under Over Fellowship as an unattractional church. The goal is to lead and pastor the congregation outside into the mission field for the harvest instead of inside to programs that create apathetic followers of Christ.

The church currently owns two facilities at separate locations. The first facility is a church complex with four buildings given to Under Over Fellowship in May of 2017 by another local church in which we have frequently partnered in ministry over the years. This location houses the majority of Under Over Fellowship's physical ministries. Currently, the church operates a rescue mission on this property four days a week that helps the homeless and marginalized with laundry, showers, clothing, and food. Under Over also serves about 3,000 hot meals a month on this campus while partnering the lunch meal with a Bible study taught at noon three days a week. A medical clinic that serves those without insurance operates twice a month from a space within the church. This facility is dedicated specifically to the medical needs of our community. Finally, this space houses Under Over Fellowship's men's and women's residential discipleship program. This program requires a six-month commitment from men and women that are hoping to transform their lives and leave the homeless lifestyle. The church currently houses

7 women and 12 men in dorm rooms and small apartments within the church facilities. This purposeful use of facilities 24 hours a day to fulfill the Great Commission is another reason that Under Over Fellowship would be considered as an unattractual church. The primary church location houses most of the day-to-day ministry of Under Over Fellowship and sits amidst a zip code, according to the American Community Survey 5-year estimate, that boasts a population of 31,801. Over half of the 31,801 residents that live in zip code, 77301 recorded themselves as Hispanic or Latino and the majority of that population falls into the 13.4% of individuals that find themselves below the poverty line in the city of Conroe. This creates a low socio-economic, cross-cultural, and multi-racial community immediately surrounding Under Over Fellowship's main campus.⁶ The greatest concentration of these individuals in the area surrounding the church is found in government-funded multi-family housing units as well as low-income trailer parks.

The secondary property houses the church's job training program which includes a wood shop with a CNC router, a laser engraver, a smithy, and a screen-printing shop as well. Under Over Fellowship uses these programs in conjunction with its residential discipleship program to teach job skills and instill work ethic to its residents. It is home to what is called the "Cross Ministry" since it is where residents work on the router to create rustic crosses sold to Christian bookstores including Lifeway, church bookstores, craft shows, and to many in our community wanting to provide a gift while at the same time supporting homeless ministry. These crosses symbolize hard work and serve as a reminder to this community of how God can take broken people and make them new. This property became the first facility purchased by the church in 2014 as the ministry to the homeless and marginalized grew. At that time this property facilitated

⁶ "United States Census Bureau," American Fact Finder, accessed May 26, 2019, <https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?src=CF>.

the physical ministry of Under Over Fellowship to the homeless in Conroe, TX. That physical ministry was comprised of a clothing closet, food pantry, shower facilities, laundry services, a hot meal served three times a week, and the housing for the men's residential program. After the gift of the primary campus in 2017, the church moved all the physical ministry from this space to the new building and transitioned this facility into a full-time workshop.

Under Over Fellowship is blessed daily to receive donations that continually keep the ministry working miraculously. Individual families donate appliances, food, and clothing. Church groups send workers to serve in positions to help repair, to cook, and to clean, and organize. Financial donations from a variety of sources help pay bills, provide for numerous ministries outside of the walls of the church, and fund salaries. Nonprofit organizations bring food to be used for feeding hot meals to residents as well as stocking the food pantry for families in need. And lastly, Under Over Fellowship is blessed with members that sacrifice their time to invest in other people's lives in the form of driving them to appointments, signing up to cook for one of the many meals served on campus, help them replace paperwork required to drive and find employment, listen as members weep over regret and loss, encourage them as they leave everything familiar behind to follow Christ, cry with them as they struggle through the pain and pull of addictions as it rears its head, and most importantly, show them and tell them of the love of a Savior willing to die for them on the cross all the while knowing of their faults.

Statement of the Problem

The problem is a lack of involvement from the members of Under Over Fellowship within the immediate low socio-economic, cross-cultural, and multi-racial community as well as slow church growth outside of the core membership. This deficiency and slow church growth is a direct result of Under Over Fellowship's poor engagement in door-to-door evangelistic ministry

within the community that immediately surrounds the physical location of the church and the fact that, as mentioned earlier, Under Over Fellowship is an unattractual church. This project leader believes that anyone that becomes part of a local body does so at the leading of the Holy Spirit. That truth is very evident at Under Over Fellowship due to the nature of the church. This body of believers does not experience great waves of church hoppers looking for their next experience. It is extremely easy to attend church somewhere else. Thus, adds to the problem of church growth. The only way that this project leader envisions sustainable church growth is by leading the lost to Christ, discipling them, and then integrating them into the unattractual model before they have had a chance to experience the comforts of the American church.

Under Over Fellowship migrated to its new facility in 2017 and moved all the homeless ministries that the church was involved in over into the new building. Attempting to meet the physical and spiritual needs of a constant flow of homeless people pouring into the facility seeking basic needs has limited the amount of spiritual help and engagement that Under Over Fellowship has provided going out into its surrounding community. Under Over Fellowship quickly outgrew its original location due to a proper lack of space for worship and ministry. It received its second location as a gift from another local church desiring to help Under Over in its call to reach the poor. Various ethnicities surround the outlying community gifted to Under Over Fellowship. These groups vary socio-economically, culturally, and racially from the core group of members that make up Under Over Fellowship, which also includes language barriers. Most members of Under Over Fellowship are Caucasian monolingual English speakers, while the surrounding community is mostly made up of non-English speaking individuals and family groups that are highly concentrated in multi-family housing units.

Purpose Statement

The purpose of this project is to create a 12-week strategy that will serve as a church growth model for Under Over Fellowship that will create opportunities for the congregation of Under Over Fellowship to engage the residents in the multi-housing apartment complexes that surround the church. The desired result is to see many come to know Christ through salvation and then for those new believers to grow in their salvation as active, thriving members of Under Over Fellowship. UOF's strategy will center around the sharing of the Gospel with the unreached as well as the meeting of the physical need of hunger within the local low-income apartment complexes and trailer park communities. Jesus' feeding of the 5,000 will be the basis on which the strategy is formed following the pattern of Jesus addressing not only a spiritual problem with the men and women that day but a physical one as well. The people, desperately in need of a shepherd, also desperately needed food. The individuals and families that reside in the multi-family housing units and trailer parks struggle with many issues within the small communities in which they live. Some of those issues include a lack of education and financial stability, high rates of drug abuse, and crime rates. One of the major issues that Under Over Fellowship has seen firsthand in the low-income housing that surrounds the church is a lack of healthy food. Most of the multi-family housing units reside in "food deserts." This term first appeared in the early '90s in England when smaller grocery stores were bought out by larger conglomerates. This left neighborhoods without readily available access to affordable fresh food. Unfortunately, the "food desert" has made its way into most low-income urban and rural areas in America.⁷ Winne writes,

⁷ Robert Gottlieb and Anupama Joshi, *Food Justice* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2013), 40.

“It was also true that the supermarket industry was rapidly moving to a much larger store format that would simply not fit the small, cramped spaces of densely populated urban neighborhoods. You might also say--without a lot of direct proof but with a good deal of intuition—that the traditional food retail industry did not want to serve a predominately non-white, lower-income shopper base.”⁸

The families and individuals that find themselves in “food deserts” subsist on high carb foods that can be readily purchased in the many convenience stores in the area that serve as grocery stores to the majority of the population of low-income residents that surround Under Over Fellowship. With the onset of COVID-19, this desperate need for food within these communities has been exponentially increased.

The result of the project will combine servant evangelism with long-term hunger relief as the vehicle to provide a comfortable and non-confrontational way for members of Under Over Fellowship to build a relationship and share the gospel with the residents of the low-income apartment complexes and trailer park communities that exist in the surrounding area of Under Over Fellowship’s physical location. This will prayerfully provide healthy food regularly to those who do not have access to healthy food, and more importantly, it will provide the spiritual food of the gospel to the spiritually malnourished. This project leader, as the lead pastor of Under Over Fellowship, desires to see not only the hungry physically and spiritually fed and see the church engaged in kingdom work, but also to see Under Over Fellowship grow as it assimilates new converts into its congregation. Although, the salvation of an individual is amazing and something to sing about, the discipleship of that new follower of Christ in a healthy church family is just as important. Jesus said, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all

⁸ Mark Winne, *Closing the Food Gap: Resetting the Table in the Land of Plenty* (Boston, MA: Beacon Press, 2008), 87.

that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:19-20) The command of Christ to the church was to make disciples and that must be Under Over Fellowship’s end game for this project. How beautiful is a church growth model that is built upon servant evangelism that is partnered with hunger relief? The belief is that this church growth model will be the result of what Christ called His disciples to do that day as he multiplied the loaves and the fish and fed the multitude. Under Over must answer the command of Christ when He said, “You give them something to eat.” (Mark 6:37)

Delimitations

For this project, delimitations will help create parameters for this study. Rosewood Apartments, Pecan Grove Apartments, Tall Timbers Apartments, Oak Hollow Apartments, Park Village 1 Apartment complex, Park Village 2 Apartment complex, Bellshire Apartments, Havenwood Senior Apartments, Buena Vista Trailer Park, DPS Trailer Park, Anderson Trailer Park, Marilynn Trailer Park, Rolling Pines Trailer Park, Silverdale Trailer Park, Walnut Coves Trailer Park, Little Mexico Trailer Park, and Residence RV are the primary areas that will be served through this project. These communities will provide the first delimitation for the project. Secondly, the project will consist of 14 weeks to gather information for the thesis. This 14-week period will break down into a 1-week pre-project period for evangelism training for the servant evangelism teams, a 12-week servant evangelism/ hunger relief project, and a 1-week post-project follow-up. The third delimitation for the project consists of the method that evangelism teams will use to share the gospel. Teams will train specifically using the John 14:6 method for evangelism that was created for the Gospel Grocery Wagon Hunger Relief/Servant Evangelism project. For this project, the team members will also be trained in the John 14:6 Front Porch Bible Studies that will be used in phase 2 of the project. The final delimitation deals with the size

of the evangelism team that will operate in the apartment complexes and trailer parks. This project leader will train 6 five-person teams from Under Over Fellowship participating throughout the 14-week duration of the project.

Limitations

This project will face certain limitations throughout the 14-week project. The accessibility of the individuals and families that live in the aforementioned communities will limit the project at times. This will be especially true due to the restraints of the COVID-19 lockdown within the State of Texas. Teams will deliver food donations as soon as they arrive due to the shelf life remaining on donated food. Because of this varied delivery schedule, some possible participants will miss the opportunity to hear the Gospel as well as receive food. Another limitation that could be a foreseeable issue is the food supply. Although Under Over Fellowship receives a schedule of donation drop-offs before the beginning of each month, the specific volume or type of food is unknown until it arrives, which could limit the project at times throughout the 14 weeks. The final limitation consists of the availability of the members of servant evangelism teams to go out on a regular schedule to participate in the project.

Assumptions

One assumption is that the individuals and families that live in the different apartment complexes and trailer park communities will welcome the servant evangelism/hunger relief teams into their small communities. This assumption comes from the outreaches that have been done previously over the last year in the surrounding neighborhoods, trailer parks, and apartment complexes close to Under Over Fellowship.

Another assumption is that the delivery of the food into the neighborhood will create a fertile opportunity to share the gospel with the unchurched population of these different communities. This assumption is based upon the history of Under Over Fellowship as a church. This project leader, as the church starter, has incorporated hunger relief into every aspect of the church's DNA from its inception. This includes the ministry of the church to the homeless population in the Conroe area.

A third assumption is that every resident in each of these communities needs food. Some residents may be very capable financially of providing healthy food for themselves and their families. This also brings the reality that some residents may see this as a negative and will not welcome this project into their community.

The final assumption is that any public profession of faith made by a participant in the project will consist of a genuine salvation experience. One of the ways to ensure each recorded salvation is genuine is since food is offered regardless of the recipient's openness to hear the gospel. The food is presented first and then if the opportunity arises the gospel is shared. The second way to ensure if a genuine profession of faith has been made is through follow-up and discipleship. Each profession of faith will be followed with a 4-week bible study as well as an invitation to integrate into Under Over Fellowship's core membership. These post-salvation steps will help this project leader determine the validity of the individual's commitment to Christ.

Definitions

During this project, there are words or word phrases that need to be defined clearly for the reader to properly understand the purpose of the project.

Boxer. A Gospel Grocery Team Member whose job it is to create either cold boxes or dry boxes for delivery to a family.

Cold Box. A box of frozen and/or refrigerated food for a family.

Director. A Gospel Grocery Wagon Team Member whose job it is to drive the Gospel Grocery Wagon, direct the runners to evangelists in need of food, and the evangelism teams to the next available door.

Dry Box. A box of non-perishable food for a family.

Evangelism. The proclamation of the good news of Jesus Christ for salvation that brings about the reconciliation of those that are lost and dying in sin to God the Father through the regenerating power of the Holy Spirit.⁹ This definition properly describes the nature of this word for this project. However, an amendment of this definition will reflect the nature of the project. The new definition is as follows: The personal surrender of an individual to Christ because of the sharing of the Gospel coupled with acts of kindness.

Evangelists. Gospel Grocery Wagon Team Members whose job it is to share the gospel door to door with families that are in need within the community.

⁹ Walter Elwell and T.P. Weber, eds., *Evangelical Dictionary of Theology*, 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2001), s.v. "Evangelism."

Gospel Grocery Wagon. This is the 1999 NABI transit bus that will be designed specifically for the delivery of food into the communities in need.

Homeless.

Individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, meaning: Has a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not meant for human habitation; is living in a publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements (including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, state and local government programs); or is exiting an institution where (s)he has resided for 90 days or less and who resided in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering that institution.¹⁰

Hunger. The lack of sustenance creates a desperate physical need for the life-sustaining nutrients and fuel required for human survival.¹¹ This definition properly describes the nature of hunger concerning this project.

Iglesia Bautista Getsemani. Gospel Grocery Wagon Hispanic church partner.

Iglesia Bautista Hispana de Conroe. Gospel Grocery Wagon Hispanic church partner and recent church plant of Under Over Fellowship.

John 14:6 Evangelism Model. This is the evangelism tool that has been developed specifically for this project. It uses John 14:6 as a foundation for teaching the Christian an easy and effective way to share his or her testimony as well as the Gospel.

John 14:6 Front Porch Bible Study. This is the Bible study that has been developed specifically for the Gospel Grocery Wagon Hunger Relief/Servant Evangelism project for the

¹⁰ “Key Federal Terms and Definitions of Homelessness Among Youth,” United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, February 1, 2018, https://www.usich.gov/resources/uploads/asset_library/Federal-Definitions-of-Youth-Homelessness.pdf.

¹¹ Mark Wnne, *Closing the Food Gap: Resetting the Table in the Land of Plenty* (Boston, MA: Beacon Press, 2008), 28-29.

building of relationship through four 15-minute Bible Studies on the front porch or breezeway outside of anyone's home that has received Christ as a direct result of this project.

Keep Us Fed. Keep Us Fed is a local non-profit organization that reclaims food from grocery stores and restaurants that is about to go bad. That food is then redistributed to other non-profits that share the food with those in need in the community.

Montgomery County Food Bank. The Montgomery County Food Bank is the local food bank that Under Over Fellowship partnered with for the Gospel grocery Wagon project.

Multi-Family Housing.

a building or structure that is designed to house two or more different households in separate housing Units which have full kitchen facilities including oven/range, refrigerator, kitchen sink with hot and cold-water supply and food storage facilities and at least one full bathroom facility, one full bedroom and one living area (including a combination thereof such as studio arrangements).¹²

Phase One Contact. This is the initial contact with an individual who receives Christ as a direct result of the Gospel Grocery Wagon. This initial contact begins the evangelism/ discipleship relationship between the individual and Under Over Fellowship or with one of the Gospel Grocery Wagon church partners.

Phase Three Contact. This is the moment a phase one or phase two contact moves into a congregational relationship with Under Over Fellowship. Integrating into the unattractational church model as a fully functioning member of the local body.

¹² "Definition of Multi-Family Housing," Law Insider: Contract Database and Search Engine, accessed May 26, 2019, <https://www.lawinsider.com/dictionary/multi-family-housing>.

Phase Two Contact. This is the subsequent follow-up with a phase one contact that agrees to enter a forward-moving discipleship relationship with Gospel Grocery Wagon team members through the John 14:6 Front Porch Bible Studies.

Relief. Removal or lightening of a desperate need. Specifically, the need for food for the hungry.¹³

Runner. A Gospel Grocery Wagon Team Member whose job is to pick up cold and dry boxes from the boxers and deliver the boxes to the evangelistic teams at each house.

Servant. To keep or hold; properly one that waits, that is, stops, holds, attends, or one that is bound.¹⁴ For this project, a “servant” represents one who gives one’s time, ability, and resources for the sole purpose of seeing the lost come to know Christ.

Unattractual Church Model. This church model has none of the modern comforts of the American church, is not program-driven, and is Gospel-centric. This church model uses its assets both liquid and physical to fulfill the glorification of God, the equipping of the Saints, and the reaching of the lost with the gospel of Jesus Christ. This church model gears its budget to give at least 50% away in missions and uses its facilities 24 hours a day for the sake of the gospel.

Unreached. People or groups of people that have not yet come to a knowledge of Christ as Savior.¹⁵ For this project, the term will include those that are saved but are not connected to a local church regularly.

¹³ Shannon L Jung, *Hunger and Happiness: Feeding the Hungry, Nourishing Our Souls*. {Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg Books, 2009) Kindle location 1237.

¹⁴ “*KJV Dictionary*,” AV 1611, accessed May 26, 2019, <https://av1611.com/kjbp/kjv-dictionary/servant.html>.

¹⁵ J.D. Payne, *Discovering Church Planting: An Introduction to the Whats, Whys, and Hows of Global Church Planting* (Downers Grove, IL: Inter Varsity Press, 2009), 161.

Thesis Statement

Under Over Fellowship ministers daily to the homeless and the marginalized; however, the church has failed to reach into the surrounding low-income communities evangelistically to add to the growth of the church. Also, as an unattractational church Under Over Fellowship struggles to grow the core membership of the church through traditional church growth methodologies which have proven ineffective. To solve this problem Under Over Fellowship will implement a hunger relief-based outreach as a model of church growth for the unattractational church.

Chapter Two

Review of Literature

David E. Fitch creates a picture for the reader of the local church that is stagnant and ineffective within its immediate community. Throughout the text, Fitch challenges the local church to reclaim the mission that was given to it by the Lord. Too often, the mainline evangelical church outsources the great work that the Lord has intended it to accomplish to parachurch organizations. The unfortunate result of the handoff of ministry is that the hurting and lost in the community never enter the local church doors for help.¹⁶ Fitch's book does a great job of revealing some major issues within the church however, he does not address many solutions and he does not mention servant evangelism as a solution at all. This project leader would agree with Fitch's assessment of the local church's stagnation within the community. It is this compelling reason that led to the development of a way to make the local church more effective in engaging the local community. Fitch does speak about the struggle that the modern church faces using traditional methods of evangelism to a generation of people that view truth differently than their parents or grandparents.¹⁷ This project leader believes that any attempt to reach this generation should result in a return to the early church methods of reaching a community through real, practical service rather than attempts to draw in crowds with the current trend of being an attractional church. For other church models, this relatively modern way of engaging the lost maybe through an attractional church model using dynamic worship, programming, and over-the-top facilities. However, for an unattractional church like Under Over Fellowship as well as

¹⁶David E. Fitch, *The Great Giveaway: Reclaiming the Mission of the Church from Big Business, Parachurch Organizations, Psychotherapy, Consumer Capitalism, and Other Modern Maladies* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2005), 61.

¹⁷ Ibid, 49.

the majority of medium to small traditional churches that are slowly declining in attendance, this is not an option. The Baptist News Global reports that the Southern Baptist Convention, from 2018 to 2019, had the largest decline in church membership in over 100 years.¹⁸ These churches like Under Over Fellowship must engage the lost in a real and meaningful way in which the community can tangibly understand the gospel that is being preached. Fitch's message at its core encourages the reclamation of the original mission of the church. Petersen would agree with Fitch's position. He believes that the American church is still operating under the paradigms of its roots when most of society was primarily rural and illiterate. During that period in the American church's history, the goal was to draw the lost into the building to hear the message. Unfortunately, society is no longer primarily rural and illiterate and is no longer interested in coming to listen. This creates a problem for the church that is stuck in that mode of operation.¹⁹ Changes must be made if there is any hope to reach the lost and to see real church growth like what was seen in the early church. Scripture reveals that the early church experienced growth daily to a church model that would not be considered seeker-friendly by today's definitions.

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved. (Acts 2:42-47)

¹⁸ Jeff Brumley, "SBC Continues Downward Slide in Membership, Attendance and Baptisms," Baptist News Global, June 5, 2020, <https://baptistnews.com/article/sbc-continues-downward-slide-in-membership-attendance-and-baptisms/#.XyqwRShKiUk>.

¹⁹ Jim Petersen, *Church Without Walls*, 2nd ed. (Colorado Springs, CO: Global Commerce Network, 2018), 151.

This is the gap that exists in the fabric of Under Over Fellowship and it must be addressed. How does a pastor lead the church to engage the local community in a relevant way with the gospel and then integrate new believers through discipleship into the unattractual church model? Chris Galanos asked the same question regarding his church in Lubbock, TX. He was challenged by a group of missionaries to discover what it would take to reach a certain people group with the gospel and then tasked the church leadership and congregation to do whatever it took to reach that certain group for Christ while integrating said people group into the corporate church setting through discipleship.²⁰ For Under Over Fellowship that immediate people groups are the individuals and families that live in the city of Conroe.

Galanos believes that the best way for the local church to reach the unreached is through disciple-making movements. From a pastoral perspective, the healthiest and most practical way for an unattractual church like Under Over Fellowship to grow is through a disciple-making movement.²¹ Waylon Moore would agree with Galanos as well. Moore believes that the act of making disciples that make disciples is the most efficient way for the local church to evangelize communities and people groups. This process engages believers in evangelism that is designed to operate separately from the comforts of buildings and programs. This concept is beneficial to the unattractual church, like Under Over Fellowship, that lacks the comfort of both of those things.²² Galanos believes that practical engagement is implemented where lost people are at the core of great disciple-making movements. However, he believes that engaging the lost is the

²⁰ Chris Galanos, *From Megachurch to Multiplication* (Lubbock, TX: Experience Life, 2018), 7.

²¹ Ibid, 28.

²² Waylon Moore, *Multiplying Disciples the New Testament Method for Church Growth* (Tampa, FL: Missions Unlimited, 1981), 31.

hardest thing for most Christians to do.²³ This project leader believes that this is where this project shows its value. This project has become the vehicle for evangelism for Under Over Fellowship that will birth a disciple-making movement within Conroe, TX.

Alan Hirsch believes that a genuine mission within the local church is driven by an approach that takes the believer outside of the attractions of buildings and programs and sends them into a lost and dying world with the hope of the gospel.²⁴ For this project to positively address the gap that exists, a missional mindset must be an active component of the individuals and families of Under Over Fellowship that are involved in the project. This is a principle that Bob Roberts, pastor of Northwood Church in Dallas, TX, believes is vital in making a gospel impact in his community. Roberts believes that every believer is responsible for sharing the gospel. This is accomplished as the local church mobilizes every member wherever the Lord has placed them. This style of evangelism personally creates an opportunity for each believer, regardless of their position in life, and is similar to servant evangelism because it is user-friendly.²⁵ This project leader agrees with Roberts concerning the responsibility of every church member's mission to share the hope of Christ. The goal is to strive to instill the concept of personal evangelism into every aspect of the physical ministry of Under Over Fellowship. Stetzer and Putman echo what Roberts believes as they write concerning the shift that the local church must make to be missionally relevant within the community. This paradigm shift aligns the congregation of the local church with who the church is called to be as well as what the local church is called to do. It means that the local body of believers must move past personal

²³ Galanos, *From Megachurch to Multiplication*, 85.

²⁴ Alan Hirsch, *The Forgotten Ways* (Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos Press, 2016), 138.

²⁵ Bob Roberts, *Glocalization: How Followers of Jesus Engage the New Flat World* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2007), 80.

preferences and begin to plan, design, and implement from a core belief of reaching the nations for Christ.²⁶ Dr. Jimmy Dorrell of Mission Waco and Church Under the Bridge calls the local church to live missionally as well. Dorrell is a great example of living missionally to his congregation as he and his wife live in the same low-income neighborhood in Waco, Tx that they serve. He challenges those that the Lord has entrusted to him to do so as well. Dorrell's entire ministry challenges his church to be the hands and feet of Christ as they serve the broken for the cause of Christ.²⁷ Serving the urban poor is not unique to Waco, TX. Dorrell's church was the closest model for the planting of Under Over Fellowship. The mission and vision of Under Over Fellowship echo that of Mr. Dorrell's Church Under the Bridge. Serving the poor in Conroe is at the heart of Under Over Fellowship and this project leader hopes that, like Dorrell's church, it will be challenged to be a physical representation of hope in a weary world.

Aaron Smith also espouses the importance of the church living missionally and serving those in need. His approach is based upon the story that Jesus tells concerning the good Samaritan. In that story, Christ establishes the role that each believer has as someone's neighbor. Smith expounds by saying that this role comes with responsibility and that the church should be actively seeking out how to be good and loving neighbors to the hurting in the community.²⁸ Patrick agrees with Smith and believes that the church must be constantly looking for those that are hurting and in need and that it is vital for the believers that make up the local church to live

²⁶ Ed Stetzer and David Putman, *Breaking the Missional Code* (Nashville, TN: Broadman & Hollman Publishers, 2006), 48-49.

²⁷ Jimmy Dorrell, *Dead Church Walking: Giving Life to the Church That Is Dying to Survive* (Colorado Springs, CO: Biblica, 2011), 68-69.

²⁸ Aaron Smith, *Thriving in the City: A Guide for Sustainable Incarnational Ministry Among the Urban Poor* (Pamona, CA: Servant Partners Press, 2015), 71-72.

on mission.²⁹ Petersen writes with great concern, that if the local church does not begin to live missionally, then the American church may not be able to recover from the decline that it has experienced over the last couple of decades. He believes that this trend can be dealt with and reversed by mobilizing the local believer who has been strategically placed within the local community to be a servant of Christ. Church leadership should focus on equipping the boots on the ground as they wage war against the culture with the gospel.³⁰ The belief is that Under Over Fellowship's boots on the ground begin with the Gospel Grocery Wagon and is a way that the members of its church can equip its soldiers in the battle we face bringing the gospel to the local community.

Bob Roberts's text offers solutions to churches that truly want to reach their communities. He challenges the local church to take the driver seat in the community in which the Lord has planted them and make real connections to the individuals and families in the church's Jerusalem. Roberts believes that when the local church takes an active role within the community, from a place of love, the result of that action will be changed lives.³¹ Payne would agree with Roberts and his challenge to make connections. Payne adds to the conversation about the local church and new church plants making these connections as he writes concerning the issue of believers in urban areas creating a one size fits all mentality when it comes to reaching

²⁹ Darrin Patrick, *Church Planting: The Man, the Message, the Mission* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2010), 175.

³⁰ Jim Petersen, *Church Without Walls*, 2nd ed. (Colorado Springs, CO: Global Commerce Network, 2018), 152.

³¹ Bob Roberts, *Real-Time Connections: Linking Your Job to God's Global Work* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2010), 152.

people for Christ.³² Local churches, as well as new church plants, must be ready to think in new directions for the sake of the gospel.

A common theme that appears throughout most of the information on church planting and church multiplication is the challenge to vacate the physical church structure and instead take the hope of church with them to the lost in their communities. Galanos echoes this line of thinking as he writes concerning the desire to see great movements in church planting. There are no great movements of church planting without the local church abandoning the walls and entering into the communities of the lost.³³ Malphurs and Penfold in their discussion on the effect of culture on and within a church also mention how a church can affect the culture in which it exists. This is the outward behavior of the church and it is reflective of its inward core beliefs. How a church views the commands given by the Lord Jesus matters. It determines how a body of believers interact with the lost and dying world that surrounds them.³⁴ Sjogren, whose main body of work deals with servant evangelism, has quite a lot to say about the principle of a church that is structured to serve outside of itself to the community that is not attending the church regularly. Leadership should build ample opportunities to get outside the walls of the church into its DNA because this is vital for reaching the community for Christ.³⁵ John Perkins would agree with Sjogren. He believes that the gospel must be more than just evangelism. If the church is not actively ministering to the whole person then there is a good chance of losing those

³² Payne, *Discovering Church Planting: An Introduction to the Whats, Whys, and Hows of Global Church Planting*, 354.

³³ Chris Galanos, *From Megachurch to Multiplication* (Lubbock, TX: Experience Life, 2018), 85.

³⁴ Aubrey Malphurs and Gordon Penfold, *Re: Vision the Key to Transforming Your Church* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2014), 170-72.

³⁵ Steve Sjogren and Rob Lewin, *Community of Kindness* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, a division of Baker Publishing Group, 2014), 81,221.

that are marginalized through the cracks. Perkins espouses that for the gospel to be rightly understood it must be delivered to the lost holistically. To share the Hope of Christ with a hungry man and send him on his way without feeding him is a tragedy.³⁶ Sparks, Serens, and Friesen believe the best example of this for the church of today is the church of yesterday. The early church. It was in the context of the local community as they served their neighbors that the early church experienced the blessings and movement of the Lord in mighty ways. Because of this way of living the early church experienced a strengthened faith that resulted in a radical demonstration of the love of Christ.³⁷ The constant presence in the community that was exhibited by the early church is something that Early and Wheeler discuss. The early church had no qualms about getting involved with the local community. It was this constant presence that created the vehicle for the gospel to be spread throughout Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the uttermost parts of the world.³⁸

The gap in the literature concerns the partnering of long-term servant evangelism and hunger relief. Some of the resources addressed servant evangelism specifically, and some of the projects dealt with food in servant evangelism, but none of the resources partnered with food and servant evangelism using the concept of long-term hunger relief. The projects that included food were only a part of a servant evangelism plan and were only for the sake of creating an initial connection between the Christian and the individual. Steve Sjogren was the most comprehensive resource on servant evangelism, and he wrote exhaustively over the subject. He espouses the

³⁶ John Perkins, *With Justice for All: A Strategy for Community Development*, 3rd ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2007), 22.

³⁷ Paul Sparks, Tim Soerens, and Dwight Friesen, *The New Parish: How Neighborhood Churches Are Transforming Mission, Discipleship, and Community* (Downers grove, IL: Inter Varsity Press, 2014), 38.

³⁸ Dave Earley and David A. Wheeler, *Evangelism Is--: How to Share Jesus with Passion and Confidence* (Nashville, TN: B & H Academic, 2010), 350.

belief that servant evangelism is a beneficial way for the local church to make lasting relationships as well as share the love of Christ in a practical way within the community.³⁹

Wheeler and Early also have quite a bit to say concerning the subject of servant evangelism and the positive nature of its implementation. They believe that servant evangelism provides a way for the individual believer and the local congregation to show Christ's love while at the same time meeting the basic needs of a community.⁴⁰ Lupton, who has a unique perspective, would agree with Early concerning the church practically showing the Love of Christ. He believes that some short-term ministry outside of the local church within the community, specifically amongst the poor, can open doors for the church to better understand those that are struggling as well as be a catalyst for compassion within the local congregation. He does caution the local church to make sure that while it is walking alongside those in need, it must also address spiritual needs to prevent becoming merely a social service organization.⁴¹

Some believe that certain types of giving, like what is done in servant evangelism, could be more destructive within the community than good. Lupton believes that the helping that occurs could be detrimental to the community long-term because of the dependency that it creates. This occurs when ministries or individuals do for those in need what they could ultimately do for themselves. Lupton goes on to state that this type of help disempowers those that are supposed to be the focus of empowerment.⁴² Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert would

³⁹ Steve Sjogren, *Conspiracy of Kindness: A Unique Approach to Sharing the Love of Jesus* (Ventura, CA: Regal Books, 2007), 23.

⁴⁰ Dave Earley and David A. Wheeler, *Evangelism Is--: How to Share Jesus with Passion and Confidence*, 149.

⁴¹ Robert Lupton, *Compassion, Justice, and the Christian Life: Rethinking Ministry to the Poor* (Venturea, CA: Regal Books, 2007), 53-54.

⁴² Robert Lupton, *Toxic Charity: How Churches and Charities Hurt Those They Help, and How to Reverse it*. (New York, NY: Harper One, 2012), 3.

agree with Lupton's assessment. The authors state that when the focus is placed on the symptom of the problem rather than the root of the problem then there is a good chance that the recipients of the help will end up being hurt instead. They also believe that in this process those extending the help are at risk of being hurt as well.⁴³ The difference between what Lupton, Corbett, and Fikkert describe and what this project desires to accomplish is that this project could never be a long-term source of sustained hunger relief for an individual or family due to the timeframe between hunger-relief ministry opportunities. This project is designed to be in certain neighborhoods with large food deliveries once every four to five weeks. It is designed specifically in this manner to keep from creating a dependence between the individual or family unit and Under Over Fellowship. Weekly follow-up will occur through the discipleship process and small amounts of food will be a part of those visits, and although it will be helpful it will by no means be an amount of food that could sustain the individual or family long term. White states in his book that the local church can become the embodiment of the gospel when it is ready and willing to be used by the Lord practically.⁴⁴ This is the goal of this project.

One of the resources concerning the importance of hunger relief was the book written by Shannon Jung. In this text, the author discusses that true transformation for the church occurs as it spends time with the hungry, those who struggle daily with food insecurity, and those that are in desperate need of life's basic resources.⁴⁵ Richard Stearns also mentions the desperate need for the church to preach the gospel and to also partner that gospel with a physical ministry. He

⁴³ Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert, *When Helping Hurts: How to Alleviate Poverty Without Hurting the Poor... And Yourself*. (Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers, 2009), 10.

⁴⁴ Tom White, *The Practitioner's Guide: Building City Gospel Movements* (Tallmadge, OH: Good Place Publishing, 2013), 24.

⁴⁵ Shannon L Jung, *Hunger and Happiness: Feeding the Hungry, Nourishing Our Souls*. {Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg Books, 2009) Kindle location 561-563.

refers to the one-sided ministry of most Christians as a limited view of the gospel that offers only a shallow gospel with no substance.⁴⁶ There is secular research in the field of education that addresses students lacking their basic needs. The understanding is that they cannot learn properly within the public-school setting if those basic needs are not met. The main area of information comes from Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs. The principles that are laid out by Maslow can be applied to those that are on the receiving end of the gospel message. Smith explains that Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs states that there are five levels of need for an individual. Those needs are as follows in order of importance: 1. Physiological 2. Safety 3. Love and Belonging 4. Esteem 5. Self-Actualization. The need for food falls under the very first level of needs and without it, an individual cannot focus on a teacher teaching algebra or a pastor sharing the gospel.⁴⁷

The need for hunger relief is desperate throughout the world and Texas is no different. The Baptist General Convention of Texas has done a great deal of research concerning the need for hunger relief in the Lone Star State through the Hunger Offering initiative. The BGCT reports that the percentage of poverty is 17.2% versus the national average of 14.3%. Texas is ranked sixth out of fifty with the worst child poverty rate, and over 27% of families with children struggle to provide enough food for proper nutrition.⁴⁸ Winne states that the lack of healthy food in poor urban areas is due to retail supermarkets' refusal to build in areas that are unstable and unprofitable. These food deserts exist in metropolitan areas as well as smaller surrounding

⁴⁶ Richard Stearns, *The Hole in Our Gospel* (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2009), 4-5.

⁴⁷ Landon Smith, *Meet Maslow* (n.p.: Make Profits Easy LLC, 2017), 18.

⁴⁸ H. Joseph Haag, "Hunger," *Therefore: Periodical of the Christian Life Commission of the Baptist General Convention of Texas* 10, no. 1 (January 2016): 3-4, https://s3.amazonaws.com/texasbaptists/hunger-offering/biblical-teaching/therefore_vol10_no1.pdf.

communities that have large populations of low-income residents. This trend began in the early 1990s in England and the northern areas of the United States and has continued throughout the rest of America to the present day. These food gaps or food deserts leave thousands of low-income families without readily available healthy food options.⁴⁹ Great efforts have been made in the last 10 years to right the sinking ship of food deserts in low-income communities. The government and private groups have made great strides in many low-income neighborhoods. Gottlieb and Joshi report that food justice is slow in its progress. Part of the problem that faces those involved in the fight is getting the larger food manufacturers to produce healthier food options that could be sold in local convenience stores.⁵⁰ The slow process in correcting the food desert issue in America creates the perfect platform for the local church to meet that need in low-income areas.

The gap exists in the area of servant evangelism partnered with hunger relief because none of the research revealed a long-term strategy for servant evangelism that met the need for the church to feed the hungry. Some short-term plans were listed in the books that focused on servant evangelism but there did not exist a plan for a local church to have a long-term mission point in a community using hunger relief. Apple writes concerning the local church's involvement in soup kitchens and the great impact that can have on those able to come to the churches for hot meals. This is a solution for churches located in extreme urban areas with dense areas of populations.⁵¹ However, it does not address the issue of those in need of healthy food in outlying urban communities that are not as densely populated as well as individuals and families

⁴⁹ Wnne, *Closing the Food Gap: Resetting the Table in the Land of Plenty*, 86-87.

⁵⁰ Gottlieb and Joshi, *Food Justice*, 156.

⁵¹ David Apple, *Not Just Another Soup Kitchen* (Fort Washington, PA: CLC Publications, 2014), 7-8.

in rural areas that find themselves without transportation. The need in most areas is to bring food to the people. Roberts addresses the need for the local church to become more focused on long-term impact within a community by challenging believers to live missionally each day.⁵² This is the driving force behind the project in which Under Over Fellowship desires to impact the local community by partnering food with the gospel. Christopherson adds to this conversation as he states that the majority of those that attend churches in the west view missions as a financial gift that is given to support an outside agency. He goes on to challenge the local church by reminding those that fill the pews every Sunday of the personal obligation of each member to fulfill the Great Commission.⁵³ Sjogren and Lewin believe that the Great Commission is an invitation for the local church to cast a wide net as it strives to be fishers of men and reach a lost and dying world. The authors challenge the local church to dream of reaching the entire city and not just the neighborhood in which the church building resides.⁵⁴ Stetzer states, in agreement, that the Great Commission is founded on concentric circles that are found in Acts chapter 1. “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” (Acts 1:8) For the early church, the Great Commission started in their hometown. It should be no different for the church today.⁵⁵ Lingenfelter and Mayers would agree with Reid and Wheeler who believe that one of the keys to successful evangelism is for the Church to meet the lost where they are and not

⁵² Bob Roberts, *Transformation: How Global Churches Transform Lives and the World* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2006), 136.

⁵³ Jeff Christopherson, *Kingdom First: Starting Churches That Shape Movements* (Nashville, TN: B & H Publishing Group, 2015), 180.

⁵⁴ Steve Sjogren and Rob Lewin, *Community of Kindness*, 60.

⁵⁵ Ed Stetzer, *Planting Missional Churches* (Nashville, TN: B & H Publishing Group, 2006), 318.

expect the lost to come to the building that the Christian world calls the church.⁵⁶ The idea of a body of believers building long-lasting relationships within the surrounding community through meaningful ministry while respecting and genuinely loving the community is vital for gospel impact according to Lingenfelter and Mayers. The authors reveal the need for the local church to connect to the local community even amid great cultural differences⁵⁷. This project leader believes that hunger relief is the easiest way for the local church to do that very thing.

It is believed by the leadership of UOF that this project is the vehicle to reach the entire city of Conroe, TX, and beyond. The research shows pastors and local ministry leaders great reasons to be missional within their communities but very few give solid practical approaches to reach the said community. This project's evangelistic/discipleship model is a practical way to solve the problem that currently faces Under Over Fellowship.

In conclusion, the problem is a lack of evangelistic engagement by the members of Under Over Fellowship to the unchurched residents within the immediate low socio-economic, cross-cultural, and multi-racial community in Conroe, TX. This project's design is to address this issue through a 12-week evangelistic disciple-making movement that uses hunger relief-based servant evangelism to integrate new converts into the unattractional church that is called Under Over Fellowship. The research indicates the positive outcomes that are associated with the engagement of the local church within its community through servant evangelism and disciple-making. It is also evident that there is a biblical mandate from Christ to feed the hungry. The

⁵⁶ Alvin Reid and David Wheeler, *Servant Evangelism: Showing and Sharing the Good News* (n.p.: Gospel Advance Books, 2013), 1.

⁵⁷ Sherwood Lingenfelter and Marvin Mayers, *Ministering Cross-Culturally*, 3rd ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2016), 78-79.

marriage of these two will create a way for Under Over Fellowship to make a lasting Gospel impact within the immediate low socio-economic, cross-cultural, and multi-racial community.

Theological Framework

Mark 6:34-37a

This section illuminates the theological framework for the servant evangelism/hunger relief strategy implemented by Under Over Fellowship. The miracle of Jesus feeding the five thousand is recorded in all four of the gospels. However, it is the Gospel of Mark's telling of the story, specifically two actions that Jesus takes about the crowd, that will serve as the foundation for the project.

The first action of teaching occurs after the Lord has great compassion for the crowd that has gathered. Mark writes, "When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd. And he began to teach them many things." (Mark 6:34) It would have been extremely easy for Jesus to push away the crowds that would inevitably keep the disciples from their much-needed rest. However, the Lord saw that the crowd was in need and he had great compassion on them. This compassion was not in the form of pity but rather it was a genuine concern that Jesus had for the crowd's spiritual condition. These people were like "sheep without a shepherd." This phrase is found throughout the Old Testament and refers to Israel's failure to shepherd God's chosen people.⁵⁸ What God said through the prophet Ezekiel came to fruition that day on the shore of Lake Gennesaret.

"And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries and will bring them into their land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country. I will feed them with good pasture,

⁵⁸ James A. Brooks, Mark (Nashville, TN: Broadman Press, 1991), 108.

and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture, they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord God.” (Ezekiel 34:13-15)

Being a good shepherd, Jesus intended to feed His sheep, but He knew feeding them spiritually took priority. The action of teaching or preaching the gospel is the first biblical component of the servant evangelism/hunger relief strategy that will be implemented by Under Over Fellowship in the low socio-economic multi-family units within Conroe. Without this component, the strategy is diluted to nothing more than social work. Under Over Fellowship must first recognize the need for spiritual nourishment within the local communities and then be prepared to meet that need with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

At this time in the text, the disciples revealed their great concern for the crowd. They reminded Jesus of the lateness of the day hoping to disperse the crowd so they could feed themselves. Jesus’ response to the disciples is the second half of the theological framework for this project. “But he answered them, “You give them something to eat.” (Mark 6:37) This second action from Jesus comes in the form of a command to the disciples to feed the people. Both Christ and his tired men saw the same need among the massive crowd. The solution for the disciples was to meet the need of the physically hungry by outsourcing the job to the surrounding villages. In doing so, the need would no longer exist because the needy would no longer be in their presence. This “out of sight out of mind” concept was the opposite of what God said in Deuteronomy 15, “For there will never cease to be poor in the land. Therefore, I command you, ‘You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and the poor, in your land.’” (Deuteronomy 15:11) In this sinful broken world, there will always be the poor, the hungry, and

those in need, but there must always be, amidst those that love the Lord, a generous giving spirit to this often-forgotten people group.⁵⁹ McIntosh writes,

“Since poverty is sometimes connected with uncontrollable events, and since unredeemed humanity is selfish by nature. Moses noted that there would always be poor in the land. Because anyone might be affected, Israel was always to be openhanded toward their kinsmen specifically and toward the poor and needy generally.”⁶⁰

This command of Jesus to his disciples is as valid for the church of today as it was for Peter, Andrew, and the sons of Zebedee. Garland writes,

“The church, however, has been called out into the world to do something about these problems. We must minister to the spiritual needs at the root of many social problems and extend material aid to those who are in need. Everywhere we turn, we find the need of a hungry crowd and little or no food. Jesus instructs us to feed them.”⁶¹

This project leader would agree with Bernard regarding the number of resources compared to the amount of need within the local community and that the ratio has not improved since Jesus’ day.

Bernard writes, “The need in American cities and other communities is on the rise. We, as the Church, have adopted human reasoning like the disciples before us to “send them away.”⁶² The belief is that this portion of scripture illustrates that resources were never the issue because the Lord had already provided what was needed to feed the crowd. Rather, it was the lack of willingness from the disciples to engage the crowd in physical ministry. The pastoral leadership of UOF is motivated by this specific text to lead Under Over Fellowship to engage the community spiritually and physically with what we have and pray for the Lord to multiply the efforts. This desire to help those in need is described by Platt as “want to.” He writes,

⁵⁹ Eugene Merrill, *The New American Commentary vol. 4* (Nashville, TN: Broadman& Holman Publishers, 1994), 245.

⁶⁰ Doug McIntosh, *Holman Old Testament Commentary Deuteronomy*, ed. Max Anders (Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2002), 191.

⁶¹ David E. Garland, *Mark* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Pub. House, 1996), 259.

⁶² Daniel Bernard, *City Impact* (Grand Rapids, MI: Chosen Books, 2004), 124-25.

“This “want to” is especially significant because it crystallizes Christians’ motivation to the poor. We don’t care for the poor because of some superficial sense that we have to but because of a supernatural compulsion that causes us to want to. Christians in our culture shouldn’t care for the poor merely because we’re constrained by a low-grade sense of guilt...Instead, real, authentic, sustainable care for the poor will only happen when any low-grade sense of guilt is conquered by a high-grade sense of the gospel.”⁶³

Matthew 28:19-20

The story of the feeding of the five thousand is the foundation for action spiritually and physically for this project. It is worth noting that before the loaves and fish were handed out to the many hungry listeners that had gathered to hear Jesus that day the Lord fed them spiritually first. “When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd. And he began to teach them many things.” (Mark 6:34) Although, Scripture does not necessarily reveal what it was that Jesus taught that day it is reasonable to assume that the good news of the gospel was a part of his teaching. The importance to share the gospel with a lost and dying world is the motivation behind the food delivery that occurs through the Gospel Grocery Wagon. The Great Commission is the defining factor that differentiates this servant evangelistic project from social service. The command to “go” in the Great Commission has unfortunately become the focus of most modern missional movements within the American church. This emphasis leaves out what Blomberg would say was the most important part of the command and that is “make disciples.” The physical without the spiritual is empty and without hope. He writes, “To “make disciples of all nations” does require many people to leave their homelands, but Jesus’ main focus remains on the task of all believers to

⁶³ David Platt, *Counter Culture* (Carol Streams, IL: Tyndale, 2015), 32.

duplicate themselves wherever they may be.”⁶⁴ The hunger relief portion of the project is important and it meets a great need but the most important role of the food is that it opens the door for the gospel to be shared, relationships started, discipleship to begin, and growth for the unattractual church. The Gospel Grocery Wagon creates an easy opportunity for Under Over Fellowship as well as other local churches to engage the community with the gospel in a relevant way. Concerning the Great Commission’s continued relevance today Early and Dempsey write,

“Going and making disciples was not just an activity for the first century. It is to extend to the end of the age...Therefore, the Great Commission does not merely cover all He commanded, or extend to all nations, it also includes all generations of those who follow Jesus.”⁶⁵

1 Corinthians 9:16

The Lord Jesus commanded the Church in the Great Commission to “go and make disciples” and the Apostle Paul reveals that his drive to share the hope in Christ is not only the result of an outward command but also an inward desire. “For if I preach the gospel, that gives me no ground for boasting. For necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!” (1 Corinthians 9:16) The Apostle Paul was driven by a spiritual motivation to deliver, freely, the message of hope that was and is found in Jesus Christ.⁶⁶ This is the same compulsion that motivates this project leader as well as those who volunteer to share Jesus through the Gospel Grocery Wagon. Thiselton writes, “It is agony if Paul tries to escape from the constraints

⁶⁴ Craig L. Blomberg, *The New American Commentary Volume 22: Matthew* (Nashville, TN: Broadman Press, 1992), 431.

⁶⁵ Dave Earley and Rod Dempsey, *Disciple making is...: How to Live the Great Commission with Passion and Confidence* (Nashville, TN: B & H Publishing, 2013), 82.

⁶⁶ Mark Taylor, *The New American Commentary Volume 28: 1 Corinthians* (Nashville, TN: B & H Publishing, 2014), 217-18.

and commission which the love and grace of “the hound of heaven” presses upon him.”⁶⁷ Under Over Fellowship needs a process to add to its local body. The need for a process to reach into the community and share Christ is due to the great burden that the membership of Under Over Fellowship has for reaching the city of Conroe for Jesus. Like Paul, this project leader echoes his words, “Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!” (1 Corinthians 9:16b)

Matthew 9:10-13

It is worth noting the important role that food had in Jesus’ ministry to the lost and marginalized of his day. This project has already stated the importance seen in the role of food regarding sharing the gospel in the feeding of the five thousand. Matthew records another incident where food is used as a common ground for Jesus and sinners to come together.

“And as Jesus reclined at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were reclining with Jesus and his disciples. And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” But when he heard it, he said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.’ For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.”” (Matthew 9:10-13)

Jesus was willing to chance scandal that this collection of commoners could have caused for an opportunity to share with them the Bread of Life. This moment, although rebuked by the Pharisees, is one of the most intimate times in all the gospels that we see the Lord fellowship with the cultural outcasts of his day. Carson writes, “The sick need a doctor, and Jesus healed them; likewise, the sinful need mercy, forgiveness, restoration, and Jesus healed them.”⁶⁸ The food was not the main attraction. Jesus and the gospel were, but it is evident that food was a

⁶⁷ Anthony C. Thiselton, *The New International Greek Testament Commentary: The First Epistle to the Corinthians* (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2000), 696.

⁶⁸ D.A. Carson, *The Expositor's Bible Commentary: Matthew*, 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2010), 943, Amazon Kindle.

common ground for Jesus and those that were lost and hurting. The food that the Gospel Grocery Wagon delivers is used in the same way today as it was in Jesus' day. It is a common ground for us to build relationships with the lost and hurting creating an opportunity to share the Bread of Life.

James 2:14-17

Although the theological foundation for this project is found in Mark 6 it is not the only portion of Scripture in the Bible where the Lord has something to say to His children concerning food and feeding the hungry. The Apostle James addresses this issue while instructing the church on how to handle the hungry.

“What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also, faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.” (James 2:14-17)

James writes that sympathy for those that are hurting, hungry, and in need is not enough. The church must put that sympathy into action. A profession of faith in Christ without the practice of Christ actively engaging a lost and dying world is a faith that is empty and dead.⁶⁹ The pleasure of the believer is to feed the hungry, give water to the thirsty, and clothe the naked. The new creature that the Christian has become is the driving force to do anything good in the name of Jesus.⁷⁰ Although prayer is vital for a healthy walk with Christ, sometimes prayer can take the place of action in the life of a believer and that can result in a fruitless and empty faith. It is salt that has lost its saltiness or a lamp that has been placed under a bushel. If a man comes to the

⁶⁹ William Barclay, *The Letters of James and Peter* (Philadelphia, PA: The Westminster Press, 1976), 75.

⁷⁰ Charles Haddon Spurgeon, “Before Sermon, at Sermon, and After Sermon,” www.ccel.org/ccel/spurgeon/sermons31.xxxii.html, accessed March 7, 2021,

Church hungry and in desperate need of help, the Church needs to be Christ and feed him. Platt writes,

“People who claim to be Christians but fail to help poverty-stricken fellow believers are in fact not saved. Their faith is dead. Now you can do cartwheels all around this text to try to find your way out of this truth, but it is there. Someone who responds like this to a brother or sister without clothes or daily food does not have faith that saves.”⁷¹

Pettit would agree with Platt regarding what the Apostle James wrote concerning the poor and the obligation that the Christian has to minister to those in need. Concerning James 1:22-2:26 he writes, “Likewise, the new covenant community is called to moral righteousness and social justice, shown by reaching out to the disenfranchised and meeting the needs of the poor.”⁷²

Matthew 25:31-40

The Lord Jesus gives the reader something to truly ponder in Matthew 25 as He addresses those who did and did not minister to the least of these and ultimately did or did not minister to Him. There is some debate regarding this text concerning who “the least of these” actually are, however this project leader sides with theologians that see the identity of those being cared for as a secondary concern for the passage, at best. The primary concern for the reader is the action of the sheep and the inaction of the goats, respectively, to those that are described in the passage as those in need. Jesus makes it noticeably clear that the feeding of the hungry, giving water to the thirsty, clothing the naked, taking in the stranger, and visiting the sick and those in prison will be a standard of judgment in God’s Kingdom. The local church should seek to be a body of believers that intentionally feeds the hungry, gives water to the thirsty, clothes the naked, takes in

⁷¹ David Platt, *Christ Centered Exposition: Exalting Jesus in James* (Nashville, TN: B&H Publishing Group, 2014), 40.

⁷² Paul Pettit, *Foundations of Spiritual Formation: A Community Approach to Becoming Like Christ* (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 2008), 76-77.

the sick, welcomes the stranger, and visits those in prison. This is at the heart of what following Christ is all about. Mainly, loving one's neighbor as oneself.⁷³ In the same way that the Fruit of the Spirit is a mark of a believer, the text alludes that how we react to those in need will reflect the inner relationship that we have or do not have with Christ. The Lord says that when someone does not respond correctly to these individuals, they are also responding incorrectly to Him.

Barclay writes,

“Jesus confronts us with the wonderful truth that all such help is given to himself; in contrast, all such help withheld is withheld from himself. How can that be? If we really wish to bring delight to those who are parents, if we really wish to move them to gratitude, the best way to do it is to help their children. God is the great Father; and the way to delight the heart of God is to help his children, our fellow men, and women.”⁷⁴

Deuteronomy 24:19-21

Feeding the hungry is at the heart of the Lord's concern for the less fortunate and it is evident in His commands to Israel in the book of Deuteronomy 24.

“When you reap your harvest in your field and forget a sheaf in the field, you shall not go back to get it. It shall be for the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow, that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hands. When you beat your olive trees, you shall not go over them again. It shall be for the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow. When you gather the grapes of your vineyard, you shall not strip it afterward. It shall be for the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow.” (Deuteronomy 24:19-21)

The Lord had created a way for the person in need to receive the help needed with dignity as well as allowing the harvest to continue without creating an issue with the work that needed to be done.⁷⁵ This is a part of the narrative of Ruth's story and how the Lord allowed her to be

⁷³ J.I. Packer and Gary A. Parrett, *Grounded in the Gospel: Building Believers the Old-Fashioned Way* (Grand Rapids, Mi: Baker Books, 2010), 170.

⁷⁴ William Barclay, *The New Daily Study Bible: The Gospel of Matthew vol. 2* (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Know Press, 2001), 380.

⁷⁵ Doug McIntosh, *Holman Old Testament Commentary: Deuteronomy* (Nashville, TN: B & H Publishing, 2002), 284.

introduced to Boaz. Merrill writes, “The alien, orphan, and widow then were to be allowed to gather up what remained as a means of sustaining themselves by their labors...Ruth was fully aware of her right as an alien and a widow to glean from the fields of anyone with whom she found favor.”⁷⁶ This process of helping with dignity is a part of the process for the Gospel Grocery Wagon. Each home visit is invited to participate in the process of delivering food throughout the community. The purpose of this project is to see church growth as a result of the hunger relief efforts. That will happen through relationship-building discipleship and the desired result will be an integration of those receiving hunger relief into the congregation of Under Over Fellowship. As a part of the congregation, those individuals and families will be asked to “get on the bus” and help distribute more food as well as share the gospel to the community.

Psalm 109

The Old Testament is also filled with instances where the Lord speaks to Israel concerning the care of the poor and the needy. In Psalm 109 the reader is exposed to God’s heart and his willingness to stand for the poor and the needy. If the American church is to digest this great imprecatory psalm it must agree and stand with the Lord concerning those who are the least of these.⁷⁷ This psalm teaches the believer that it is important to care for those in need, to remember the words of the Apostle Paul in his letter to Galatia, to bear one another’s burdens, and to stand alongside the poor and needy. The reason that this is so important is revealed to the reader of the psalm in verses 30 and 31. “With my mouth I will give great thanks to the Lord; I will praise him in the midst of the throng. For he stands at the right hand of the needy one, to

⁷⁶ Merrill, *The New American Commentary* vol. 4, 324.

⁷⁷ Gordon Wenham, *The Psalter Reclaimed: Praying and Praising with the Psalms* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2013), 144.

save him from those who condemn his soul to death.” (Psalm 109:30-31) At the end of this Psalm, David gives the reader a glimpse of the Lord’s heart concerning the poor and those in need. Although the context here is David himself, the principal of the character of God and his response to the needy is applicable outside of the context of David.⁷⁸ When the church ministers to the needy, the poor, and the hungry they minister alongside the Lord himself.⁷⁹

Proverbs 21:13

Not only does the Word of God laid out for the Church the importance of feeding the hungry, but it also is noticeably clear what will happen to those that ignore the cry of the hungry, the poor, and the needy. In Proverbs 21:13 the reader sees an example of what it looks like to ignore those in need. “Whoever closes his ear to the cry of the poor will himself call out and not be answered.” (Proverbs 21:13) Garrett describes those that would turn a deaf ear to those that are in need as merciless. The frightening thing about the merciless is that they will be shown no mercy and their unfortunate fate should be a mirror for personal reflection and one’s action regarding the needy.⁸⁰ The reader sees the heart of God and His concern for the hungry and the poor and is challenged to respond to those in the same way that the Lord would respond. There is a danger in thinking that if a person is good then the Lord will hear his or her prayer and likewise if a person is bad then the Lord will not hear one’s prayer. Scripture, however, reveals that it is

⁷⁸ William VanGemenen, *The Expositor's Bible Commentary: Psalms* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2008), 812, Amazon Kindle.

⁷⁹ J. Clinton McCann Jr., *A Theological Introduction to the Book of Psalms* (Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 1993), 116-117.

⁸⁰ Duane Garrett, *The New American Commentary vol. 14* (Nashville, TN: Broadman Press, 1993), 181.

not a question of good or bad but rather the Lord will hear the cries of those that hear, look, and respond in a way that patterns the Lord himself.⁸¹

Proverbs 25:21

In Proverbs 25 we see the concept taken even further than just caring for the needy and the poor by feeding one's enemy. This act of loving-kindness reflects the gospel and points to the important role that food can play in expressing the love of God to the hungry regardless of whether he or she is a friend or foe. This concept of loving an enemy is echoed by the Lord Jesus in Matthew 5:43-47. This specific proverb was quoted by the Apostle Paul in his epistle to the Romans.⁸² Gudzik writes, "The Bible commands us to have giving-love and care even to our enemy. Human nature would tell us to hate our enemy, but the Bible tells us to love our enemies and to do it practically."⁸³

This theological framework is the foundation for Under Over Fellowship's servant evangelism/hunger relief strategy. The goal is to follow the pattern of Christ to shepherd the shepherdless and minister to those in need in the lower socio-economic areas of Conroe and Montgomery County Texas not only physically, but spiritually as well.

⁸¹ Daniel L. Akin and Jonathan Akin, *Christ-Centered Exposition: Exalting Jesus in Proverbs* (Nashville, TN: B & H Publishing, 2017), 220.

⁸² Ibid., 209.

⁸³ David Gudzik, *Proverbs: A Verse by Verse Commentary* (Goleta, CA: Enduring Word, 2020), 393, Amazon Kindle.

Theoretical Framework

The creation and implementation of a hunger relief/servant evangelism strategy is a simple way for Under Over Fellowship to share the gospel, build relationships, disciple, and integrate new believers into the congregation. This church growth model for the unattractual church is a strategy that offers a more intimate setting that will help the volunteers that are serving on the Gospel Grocery Wagon to establish connections within the community faster than randomly implementing servant evangelism outings across a broader area. Dever writes, “Yes, you can invite people to services and special evangelistic events, but also consider bringing them into your own life, into the network of relationships that is your congregation. That may be to them as a shining star in the dark of their lives.”⁸⁴ This project leader believes that for this strategy of church growth to be effective there must truly be a need that should be met. There is no doubt that Scripture reveals a desperate need for spiritual nourishment for the community and that people need to hear the gospel. However, two questions one must ask oneself when embarking on this type of ministry are as follows: Is there a need for hunger relief in the communities surrounding Under Over Fellowship, Montgomery County, and Texas in general, and is it beneficial for the gospel’s sake to partner the two?

Based on the latest data from Feeding Texas on the immediate zip code that Under Over Fellowship sits, 16% of people live in food-insecure homes. That is roughly 13,000 individuals with 25% of that number being children under the age of 18.⁸⁵ Consumer Reports reported in November of 2020 that 1 in 5 Americans are turning to food banks due to food insecurity and that Feeding America, the largest hunger-relief non-profit, saw a 40% increase of first-time

⁸⁴ Mark Dever, *The Gospel and Personal Evangelism* (Wheaton, IL.: Crossway Books, 2007), 66,

⁸⁵ Feeding Texas, “*Zips-Feeding Texas*,” <http://www.feedingtexas.org/zip/77301/>, accessed July 27, 2021,

visitors between March and June of 2020.⁸⁶ Vodvarka writes, “The Coronavirus pandemic has exacerbated food insecurity across the U.S. as historic unemployment rates continue to overwhelm people in need. Catholic ministries have stepped in to expand and create new ways to distribute food.”⁸⁷ In a corresponding article to Vodvarka’s, Clarke reports that during 2020 and 2021 the hunger relief wing of Catholic Charities saw anywhere from 50 to 300 percent increase in food-related relief.⁸⁸ This project leader believes that based upon the evidence locally and nationally that there is a definite food security issue within lower socio-economic communities. This overwhelming data partnered with Jesus’ command to His disciples in the feeding the 5,000, “You give them something to eat,” creates a very clear path for the Gospel Grocery Wagon Hunger Relief/Servant Evangelism project. People are hungry, spiritually and physically; the local church should feed them, spiritually and physically.

The idea of the church distributing food is not a new concept. American churches have had food pantries and partnered with secular entities to do food distributions for years. Now there are even para-church ministries that are completely focused on food relief. Omokha reports on one of those para-church ministries located in New York City. She writes, “...like The Father’s Heart...has a number of volunteers that want to serve. In an era when many food pantries and soup kitchens are suspending services due to coronavirus-related precautions, the volunteers have kept the 22-year-old food program operating out of the historic brick-and-stone church

⁸⁶ Tobie Stanger, “Hunger Crisis: 1 in 5 Americans Turning to Food Banks,” *Consumer Reports*, November 02, 2020, www.consumerreports.org/food/americans-turning-to-food-banks-during-the-pandemic.

⁸⁷ Sophie Vodvarka, “Catholics Step in as Food Insecurity Skyrockets,” *National Catholic Reporter* 56, no. 17 (May 29, 2020), link.gale.com/apps/doc/A628349005/BIC?u=vic_liberty&sid=summon&xid=d41130c6.

⁸⁸ Kevin Clarke, “Lines Grow Outside Food Pantries as Covid-19 Spikes Again,” *National Catholic Reporter* 224, no. 2 (February 2021), link.gale.com/apps/doc/A653624674/BIC?u=vic_liberty&sid=summon&xid=18562f01.

building that houses it...”⁸⁹ Local churches are also finding ways to meet the physical need of food in their local communities. Christian Family Baptist Church in San Antonio, Texas has a monthly food distribution that resembles a local Grocery store. Once a month those in need can come and shop for food. The church hopes that this process of food distribution creates more dignified access to food for the local community.⁹⁰ Another church in Houston, following the disaster of Hurricane Harvey, began delivering food into low socio-economic areas with a food truck. St. Isidore Episcopal Church believes this method of hunger relief was the easiest way to comply with Houston’s new feeding ordinances while meeting the physical needs of the community.⁹¹ Silver town Baptist Church in Thomaston, GA has brought the hot meals a little closer to the local church. Twice a week the members operate a soup kitchen that feeds thousands of meals a month to those that are in need. During this time a volunteer prays with those in need of prayer and leads the group in a small devotional. Westbury writes, “...Silvertown Baptist Church has reached its goal of communicating the love of Christ to those in the community. For the past five years, it has sought to be the hands and feet of Christ as it provides hot, all-you-can-eat home-cooked meals until the last pot is emptied.”⁹² These four strategies for hunger relief, rather led by the para-church or local church, are meeting the community’s physical needs. However, the emphasis in each of these examples, as well as many

⁸⁹ Rita Omokha, “Do unto the least of these? There's a wait list for that,” *Christianity Today*, July 13, 2021, <https://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2020/may-web-only/manhattan-new-york-food-pantry-fathers-heart-coronavirus.html>.

⁹⁰ Abby Hopkins, “Ministry refines food distribution process to offer community more dignified access to food,” *Hunger Offering* (blog), June 01, 2019, www.hungeroffering.org/blog/article/ministry-refines-food-distribution-process-to-offer-community-more-dignified-access-to-food.

⁹¹ David Paulsen, “Food Truck Ministry Creates Sacred Space Outside Church,” *Christian Century*, December 19, 2017, www.christiancentury.org/article/news/food-truck-ministry-creates-sacred-space-outside-church.

⁹² Joe Westbury, “Silvertown Church Feeds the Hungry, Spiritually and Physically,” *Baptist Press*, November 25, 2014, www.baptistpress.com/resource/library/news/from-the-states-Ga-Calif-Fla-evangelism-missions-news-focus-on-food-ministry.

other food pantries or ministries is hunger relief only in the name of Jesus. This is not wrong, but this project leader believes that it is not best. The Gospel Grocery Wagon is the partnership of food *with* the gospel as well as a desire to disciple, build relationships, and eventually integrate those that receive the gospel into the local body. Unfortunately, the para-church is not the vehicle that was designed by the Lord to disciple, build relationship, and integrate. It may do great work, but it is not the local church. On the other hand, local churches that are only providing the physical without the spiritual are missing a key component. The church is called to be the hands, feet, and *voice* (emphasis mine) of Jesus. In the feeding of the 5,000 before Jesus commanded the disciples to feed the crowd Scripture reveals to the reader that Jesus “taught them many things.” The physical without the spiritual is a social service.

This project is designed to create long-term opportunities for relationship building on a personal level as well as a process to help the individual or family to integrate into Under Over Fellowship's corporate setting. This process is based on the idea that evangelism and the discipleship relationship begin with the sharing and receipt of the gospel. That journey begins a four-to-five-week journey of one-on-one discipleship that will prayerfully result in the integration of that person into the congregation of Under Over Fellowship. This process begins with hunger relief, but it evolves into so much more. The pandemic has been the perfect opportunity for the local church to respond to those that are facing a crisis. Shoreline Church in California has used the Covid-19 crisis to minister to its surrounding community through the food pantry that it operates. Once the pandemic hit the church realized the importance of being more intentional with the gospel. The church began to partner their hunger relief efforts with intentional opportunities for prayer as well as presenting the gospel one on one to those that were interested in knowing more. The church also provides literature with information about church

services and programs within the church. Harney, who is a member of the church, doesn't report if any of those that receive the hunger relief make a profession of faith, are disciplined, and integrated into the church.⁹³ However, a new Baptist church plant in Florida called Nueva Esperanza has reported growth to their congregation from the church's hunger relief efforts during the Covid-19 pandemic. The church was planted in a low socio-economic area in Miami and the food was an open door for Pastor Jose Garcia to share the hope of Christ with the Community. Garcia states, "[This ministry] has helped the church grow and be known as a church of love," said Jose Garcia, adding that many of those who attend on Sundays connected with the church through the food ministry"⁹⁴ Both of the churches are partnering hunger relief with evangelism and the church in Florida are seeing growth on Sunday morning. Unfortunately, one portion of data that was not included in the articles concerning these two local congregations was the number of those attending who had made professions of faith and were engaged in discipleship.

This project's purpose is to serve as the sole model of church growth for Under Over Fellowship. Due to the unattractiveness of the Under Over Fellowship congregation, the result of the hunger relief/evangelism must yield more than numbers on Sunday mornings. As mentioned earlier, the discipleship relationship in this model begins when the hunger relief/evangelism relationship is initiated with the hopes of building relationships and community. The result will be a solid new believer in Christ that feels a part of the local congregation due to the established relationships that occurred through the discipleship process

⁹³ Kevin Harney, "How a Food Pantry Became so Much More," *Church Leadership*, June 22, 2021, www.churchleadership.com/leadingideas/how-a-food-pantry-became-so-much-more.

⁹⁴ Keila Diaz, "Church Plant, Food Ministry Grow Together through Pandemic," *Baptist Press*, November 20, 2021, www.baptistpress.com/resource/library/news/church-plant-food-ministry-grow-together-through-pandemic.

of the project. This project leader believes that the unattractiveness of Under Over Fellowship, such as the physical hardships of the meeting place, ministering to the addicted and mentally unhealthy, being gospel-driven instead of program-driven, can become secondary when discipleship and healthy Christian relationships are stressed.

All though there are many ministries and churches using hunger relief in one way or the other in the name of Jesus, it is the belief that the Gospel Grocery Wagon stands alone in its purpose and processes. This project has provided an opportunity for the unattractiveness church that is called Under Over Fellowship to reach into the community with hunger relief that is partnered with the gospel to see lives changed through salvation, discipleship, and fellowship with the local church. Under Over Fellowship has heard the command of Christ to give them something to eat, and this local body of believers has followed the Lord's example to teach them many things.

Chapter Three

Intervention Design

The purpose of this project is to fulfill the Great Commission, to see individuals and families spiritually and physically changed in Under Over Fellowship's immediate community, and to embolden the members of our team by creating a long-term strategy through servant evangelism and hunger relief. With the initiation of this project, Under Over will not only affect the immediate community but will eventually affect the entire city and county in which this writer lives. The objective of this project is to see a minimum of 15 individuals make a profession of faith in Christ Jesus. The long-term nature of the project as well as meeting the dire need of hunger relief will also add to the greater possibility of a profession of faith as a direct result of the project. The project calls for the implementation of the 12-week servant evangelism/hunger relief strategy laid out in this project to prayerfully accomplish this objective. The servant evangelism/ hunger relief strategy creates an opportunity to be intentional with the gospel while building relationships within the community by meeting a physical need. Prayerfully this interaction between the members of Under Over Fellowship and surrounding communities will result in the gospel being shared and ultimately individuals making professions of faith in Christ. The John 14:6 evangelism model, that was designed for this project, will be the base method for sharing the gospel for this project. However, project participants will be allowed to use other evangelistic tools as well while serving on the Gospel Grocery Wagon. Share Jesus Without Fear, Evangelism Explosion, Romans Road, the Evangi-Cube, and a person's testimony are all tools that can be used to witness and minister to those the Gospel Grocery Wagon will serve. The Gospel Grocery Wagon Hunger Relief/Servant Evangelism project will utilize the concept of cold-call evangelism for many of the outings. This method of sharing the gospel can

be very intimidating even for most veteran evangelists, however, the addition of a box of food to the cold call visit creates a non-threatening way to introduce the gospel. The box of food that will accompany every evangelistic team to each door has a threefold purpose. The first purpose is that the food meets a very specific physical need within the community while, secondly, fulfilling the command of Christ to give the hungry something to eat. The final purpose of the food is, as mentioned earlier, a simple way to open the door for the gospel to be shared. Food becomes a common ground between the project participant and the person on the other side of the door. The Gospel Grocery Wagon will bring the food to the people in the place that they are most comfortable, their homes. Meeting people in this intimate setting will open doors for relationships to be established between the project participants and the residents of the many neighborhoods, apartment complexes, and trailer parks that will be part of this evangelistic strategy. Many of these people will never feel comfortable entering the church for help, much less for services, thereby making a “home turf” location necessary. However, just being part of the salvation of the individuals through this project would only result in partial success. For the project to be a complete success as a church growth model for the unattractual church, there must be an integration of those surrendering to Christ into the church body itself. After making a profession of faith the goal is to see the new believer integrate into an active and healthy role within the congregation of Under Over Fellowship. That integration will prayerfully be achieved through Phase two of this process. During Phase Two those that have made professions of faith in Christ as a result of the GGW will be asked to participate in four John 14:6 Front Porch Bible Studies. Due to the Pandemic, a front porch is a place where, weather permitting, the Project participant and the new Christian can safely engage in Bible Study where again, a lot of the intimidation of church to new believers will be removed. Each of the four weeks as the group

meets to walk through the John 14:6 Front Porch Bible Studies the project participant will bring another food item for the family. For example, a gallon of milk, a loaf of bread, or possibly a pound of hamburger meat. This weekly gift is intended to help strengthen the bond between the project participants and the new believers. This project leader believes that the unfortunate results of the pandemic, i.e... the lockdown, have created a great opportunity logistically for the partnership of food and the gospel as well as for the John 14:6 Front Porch Bible Studies. Advantages to beginning the project during the pandemic are finding more people home in the middle of the day and that their fear and worry means more people are looking for answers and comfort towards spiritual matters. Under Over Fellowship wants to bring the peace and comfort of Jesus right to their doorstep during this time of uncertainty.

John 14:6 Evangelism Training

The training of the project participants is the first task that needs to be completed. Before beginning the evangelistic training, the Gospel Grocery Wagon participants will complete the volunteer pre-survey. This survey consists of twelve very simple questions and the answers provided by the project participants will help create a baseline for each participant regarding personal evangelism. After establishing a starting point, each project volunteer will participate in an intensive weeklong evangelism training using John 14:6 as the foundation. Kostenberger writes, “Jesus’ claim to be the way (implying that no one can come to the Father but through him) is as timely today as it was when our Lord first uttered it.”⁹⁵ This evangelism model uses the strengths of the congregation of Under Over Fellowship which relies heavily on the church member’s testimony. The membership of Under Over Fellowship mostly comes from a

⁹⁵ Andreas Kostenberger, *Encountering John* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2013), 142.

background of addiction and the testimonies of the congregation are extremely powerful as they testify to the ability of Christ to deliver from sin and provide freedom from said addiction. The low-socioeconomic areas that the project that will be implemented are high crime areas that struggle with family violence, alcohol, and drug addiction. The John 14:6 evangelism model will use Under Over Fellowship member testimonies as a part of the sharing process. McRaney states, “Shaping a personal testimony may be the most powerful tool available to the willing witness. A testimony is effective in all cultures, especially the postmodern culture the church is now facing in America. Your life story is often interesting to others, even to those usually unwilling to talk about religious matters.”⁹⁶

The project participant’s testimony will be shared in step one of the evangelism model. This step is called The Way of the Gospel. The sharer will reveal in John 14:6 what Jesus said about himself as the only way to be made right with God. The project participant will also share that there is a way that seems right to man, that is opposite of God’s way, and it leads to death. It would be at this time that the project participant would share his or her testimony before Christ as well as what happened when they met The Way, Jesus Christ. Connecting with people over shared difficulties, through grief stories, or by way of other commonalities will help form an emotional bond between the project participant and the recipients. These bonds will prayerfully lead to the ability to continue talking more in-depth about the change that Jesus has made in the life of the project participant and how the recipient can experience that same change. Some key verses that project participants will be asked to memorize for step 1 are Romans 3:23, Romans 3:10, Romans 5:12.

⁹⁶ Will McRaney, *The Art of Personal Evangelism: Sharing Jesus in a Changing Culture* (Nashville, Tenn.: Broadman & Holman, 2003), 235.

The second step is The Truth of the Gospel. It is at this time that the project participant will share the truth that Jesus Christ was and is the perfect God-Man, his sinless life, His vicarious death, his miraculous resurrection, and that he was seen alive by hundreds. Key verses for this step include Romans 6:23, Romans 5:8, and 1 Corinthians 15:3-8. Project participants will question the understanding of what each recipient has of the Trinity, what sin is, and how sin affects our lives. Those receiving the Word must have a clear understanding of sin and its part in our need for a Savior before moving forward.

The third and final step of the John 14:6 evangelism model is The Life of the Gospel. It is at this time that the project participant will share the eternal life that Jesus Christ offers to those that would trust him by faith. An explanation of repentance and of how Jesus offers forgiveness to those who are ready to surrender and are sincere is a vital part of step 3. If recipients are prepared to decide to follow Jesus, project participants will be prepared to pray with them. Some key verses for the third and final step are John 3:16, Romans 10:9-10, Romans 10:13, and Ephesians 2:8-9.

As a part of this training, project participants will be asked to first write their testimony concerning what Christ has done for them. Their testimony should include what life was like before Jesus, how they came to know Jesus (what Scriptures spoke to them as well as how they were introduced to Jesus), and also how their relationship with Christ has changed them. This personal story will be used during step one of the John 14:6 evangelism method. Project participants will be asked during training week to share their testimony and practice integrating their story with the story of the gospel. In addition to practicing their testimony, each participant will practice sharing the gospel at least five times during training week. To aid each evangelist, a business card size evangelistic tool has been created that can be used by the project participant

while sharing Christ door to door. These simple cards can also be given away to those receiving the gospel. The hope of this project is for the participants to use a very simple but descriptive verse from Jesus' mouth to equip them in sharing the gospel successfully all the while making connections with the recipient through personal stories.

Gospel Grocery Wagon Training

During the evangelistic training, this project leader will also train project participants in the process of physically partnering the food with the gospel. Under Over Fellowship has successfully secured partnerships with the local food bank as well as a nonprofit organization that does food reclamation from local grocery stores and restaurants. The food from these organizations can vary from shelf-stable canned or boxed goods to fresh produce to grocery store deli and bakery items with a short time until their expiration dates. Both organizations will provide the needed food for the project. The participants will travel to the food bank on the Gospel Grocery Wagon where the donated food will be loaded into the interior of the bus. The GGW is an air-conditioned 1996 North American Bus Industries transit bus from San Antonio, Texas, and the interior of the bus is spacious enough to accommodate the cold food to be delivered into the community. The dry goods will be loaded on a flatbed trailer that will follow the Gospel Grocery Wagon into the neighborhoods, apartment complexes, and or trailer parks.

Each project volunteer will be asked to work in each of the three main areas of the Gospel Grocery Wagon process: boxer, runner, and evangelist. The boxer's responsibility is to take the different types of cold food on the bus and the different types of dry food on the trailer and create cold boxes and dry boxes of food for delivery. The goal is that project participants will rotate through the jobs each week so that every participant gets an opportunity to be outside sharing the gospel rather than spending each week making the boxes. Participants that are

nervous about sharing the gospel may “hide” in the bus working rather than pushing themselves to be bold for the Lord.

The boxer is the easiest of the three jobs because it doesn't require constant walking throughout the area that is being served. Boxers will create an assembly line within the bus to fill each box with the different items for the cold boxes. The runner's responsibility is to retrieve the cold and dry boxes of food from the Gospel Grocery Wagon and the trailer. Because the runner will be expected to walk far distances repeatedly with heavy boxes, it is important that runners be fit and prepared to work in the Texas heat. Each runner then delivers the food to the evangelist teams that are contacting those in the neighborhood that are being served. The runners will use small wagons and dollies to transport the food to each house. This area of the project is the most physically taxing. The runner is constantly going from GGW and trailer to the evangelist team over and over while the bus is moving slowly throughout the community. The most important position on a Gospel Grocery Wagon food run is the evangelist. This project participant will have completed the John 14:6 training and will be equipped to share the hope of Christ with those in need. The evangelist teams are made up of at least two evangelists that will work in partnership together as they engage the individual in the community with food from the GGW, enter a gospel conversation, and evaluate the possibility for follow-up with a Front Porch Bible Study. These teams must be prepared to pray with, share Scripture, and connect easily with strangers.

John 14:6 Front Porch Bible Study

Following each Gospel Grocery Wagon outing, the project participants will reconvene to debrief the outing, praise the Lord for the harvest, pray for the homes that were contacted, and formulate a plan for follow-up for those that made professions of faith. The Front Porch Bible

Studies will also be led by Gospel Grocery Wagon project participants. The goal of the Front Porch Bible Studies is to continue building a relationship with those who trusted Christ with the hope of integrating that individual into the Under Over Fellowship Church community. The four-week Bible study will occur on Wednesday afternoons preceding Under Over Fellowship's corporate Wednesday night service. Every one of the Gospel Grocery Wagon volunteers will be asked to be part of the Front Porch Bible Study strategy. Teams of three or four will partner up weekly to meet with the individuals that made professions of faith during a GGW outreach project participant teams. The goal of these teams during this four-week study is not only to continue to share their faith and grow the knowledge of Jesus, but it is also to continue building a relationship between them and the recipient so that they may eventually transition the recipient to the church setting which sets them up for step 4. The first three weeks of the Bible study will walk through the John 14:6 evangelism tool as a twenty-minute Bible study with the fourth and final study revealing the importance of being a part of a local body of believers and concluding with a plan to integrate the new believer into the corporate worship of Under Over Fellowship. The shared content of the John 14:6 evangelism tool and the John 14:6 Front Porch Bible Studies is to create a familiar teaching plan for the Gospel Grocery Wagon project participant. Each of the four Bible studies will be in the appendix section of this project but a brief overview of the content will be shared in this section.

The first Bible study will focus on the Way of the gospel and will begin with the plan for salvation that the Lord revealed in the book of Genesis once Adam had sinned against God. It will briefly travel through the Old Testament concerning the prophecy of the coming Messiah. The culmination of the first study will end with the birth of the Savior and Jesus' interaction with John the Baptist. Throughout all the John 14:6 Bible Studies the analogy of a parachute will be

used to help explain each teaching point. For the first Bible study, the project participant will ask the new Christian if they ever played like they had a parachute as a kid. Maybe a beach towel or a bed sheet might have been used as they jumped off the front porch or out of a tree. Then the leader will be asked if their way worked. The project participant will then briefly describe that only very specific materials that are sewn in very specific ways that are folded in a very delicate manner can be parachutes. This analogy will be used to drive home Proverbs 14:12 “There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.” The new believer will then be asked to write a short testimony about the way that once was right to them and how they came to know God’s Way: Jesus as Lord and Savior. This portion of the Front Porch Bible Study prepares the new believer to “Get on the bus,” and participate full circle in the discipleship process by sharing their testimony through the Gospel Grocery Wagon. Organizing and writing down their understanding of Scripture and how they came to know the Lord will help encourage and prepare them to begin sharing the Gospel with their family and neighbors through their powerful testimony.

The second Front Porch Bible Study will cover the Truth of the gospel and it will be comprised of three main ideas. The first being that Jesus died for our sins in accordance with the Bible. During this part of the Bible Study, the Project participant will go over his or her testimony and ask about the new believer’s testimony that should have been written over the last week. This project leader hopes to make sure that the new believers know without a shadow of a doubt that the Lord Jesus died to pay the debt for the sins of the world. The second main idea that will be stressed is that Jesus was buried and rose from the dead on the third day. This section stresses the importance of the resurrection of Jesus within the Christian story as well as the new Christian’s story. The third and final main idea of the second Bible Study is that Jesus was seen

after his resurrection by hundreds of people. Include in this section will be some of the most prominent proofs of the resurrection to show the new believer that one must trust in Christ by faith, but that faith is not blind faith. Many proofs prove the life, death, and resurrection of Christ. At this point in the Bible study, the project participant will return to the parachute analogy. A person that chooses to jump from a plane wearing a parachute must trust that their life is safe because their faith in the parachute is real. There is proof that parachutes work through the witnesses and experienced jumpers that can testify that they work just as there are believers that trust their life to Christ because they have witnessed and experienced him in their lives.

The third John 14:6 Bible Study covers the Life of the gospel. This study focuses on the fact that salvation comes through faith in Jesus Christ and that He is the only way a person can be reconciled with the Father and receive eternal life. The project participant will lead the new follower of Christ through an overview of what faith is to make sure that they have a firm understanding of their new faith in Christ. Hebrews 11:6 will be used along with the final parachute analogy to drive home this teaching point. “And without faith, it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.” (Hebrews 11:6) The parachute can only save a person if that person places his or her entire faith in the parachute. That individual must step completely out of the plane clinging to only the parachute for salvation. In the same way, a person can't be right with God unless he or she completely surrenders to Christ and Christ alone. He is the only one who can give life. It is important for those that may not have accepted Christ yet to know that it is Jesus alone and not church attendance, being a good person, or following a list of rules that reconciles you to Jesus.

The final Bible study will prayerfully be the catalyst that will lead the new believer or new contact to join the project participant at one of Under Over Fellowship's regular corporate services. It is also the perfect opportunity to engage the new believer into participating in the Gospel Grocery Wagon's weekly evangelistic outings. Most of the teaching time for this Bible study will be focused on revealing the importance of being a part of a local body of believers. At this time the project participant will share about Under Over Fellowship's ministries and opportunities for corporate worship. This includes sharing about the bus ministry that is already active in bringing people without means to church every Wednesday night and Sunday morning. If at this time the new believer doesn't feel that Under Over Fellowship is a good fit for them or their family, the project leader will ask if it is ok to share their contact info with other more traditional church partners in the area. It is understood that as an unattractual church, Under Over Fellowship, will not be the right fit for everyone. Families with many young children or the elderly might find church life at Under Over fellowship difficult due to the weather and sometimes extreme conditions. As mentioned earlier in this project every Sunday service is held outside in the Texas elements. This project has led to a wonderful partnership with three traditional sister churches in the area that would be willing to follow up with contacts that might not be a good fit for Under Over Fellowship.

Data Collection

The final step of the 14-week project is the last week which will be dedicated to data collection and debriefing of the project participants. The data collected from all the participants will be used to continue the John 14:6 Bible Studies and to determine how valid the Gospel Grocery Wagon hunger relief/servant evangelism project has been. The main way that the debriefing will occur is through the post-project participant survey. This survey will give a good

portion of data that will reflect how the project participants have grown as evangelists throughout the 12 weeks of the core project. It should be noted that although this week is the end of the official project, the Gospel Grocery Wagon will continue to deliver food, share the gospel, build relationships, conduct John 14:6 Front Porch Bible Studies, and strive to integrate new believers into the body of Under Over Fellowship. This method is the sole method of adding to the unattractual church that is called Under Over Fellowship.

Through each step previously listed, it is believed that communication with the community and the Gospel Grocery Wagon will be vital for its success. Team Members will be informed through team meetings, social media, and messaging apps. The local communities will be informed through social media, WhatsApp, door-to-door contact, project participants, and the Gospel Grocery Wagon. The Gospel Grocery Wagon will alert the residents of neighborhoods, apartment complexes, and trailer parks in the same way that the ice cream truck lets the neighborhood kids know that is in the area by broadcasting music. Connecting through social media will be encouraged for all community recipients in hopes that it could strengthen their connection to the ministry of Under Over Fellowship. Keeping them informed of the day-to-day opportunities that are available at UOF for individuals and families to be a part of is vital. Communication with the apartment management, maintenance personnel as well as community leaders will also be important for the success of the project. This project leader has a great relationship with many of the current project apartment complex managers and anticipates no issues with the implementation of the servant evangelism/hunger relief strategy. The Gospel Grocery Wagon project will be explained to the area residents through the use of a visual handout in English and Spanish that will accompany every grocery box served throughout the project using the story of the feeding of the five thousand in Mark 6:34-37. Jesus saw a great

need, both spiritually and physically, and he addressed that need immediately. The spiritual need was addressed as he began to teach and share the gospel to the crowd; then the Lord addressed the physical need of hunger. This need was met as he commanded the disciples to feed the hungry crowd with what they had available to them. With this as the foundation for the Gospel Grocery Wagon, this project leader would express that Under Over Fellowship desires to be like Jesus Christ. As Under Over Fellowship follows Jesus, we must strive to meet the spiritual needs of this community through the preaching of the gospel as well as meet the physical need of hunger by helping those in need of hunger relief in Conroe.

There are 16 predetermined local apartment complexes, neighborhoods, and trailer parks that are within our Sunday and Wednesday church bus routes for the implementation of the Gospel Grocery Wagon hunger relief/servant evangelism project. Every one of these predetermined areas is middle to lower socio-economic areas within the 77301 and 77304 zip codes. The Gospel Grocery Wagon is open to new neighborhoods, apartments, and trailer parks if they are in need and are accessible for the project participants to follow up with the John 14:6 Front Porch Bible Studies. It is the belief that as UOF begins working in the different areas that more in need areas will be evident.

This project leader would like to begin the servant evangelism/hunger relief project as soon as possible. IRB approval has been granted and the GGW is expected to be ready to begin in the spring of 2020. Hunger knows no time of year and due to the pandemic, the need for food has risen within the low socio-economic communities. The Spring season in the Houston area is not quite as hot as the late summer months and cooler temperatures might allow for a greater response from participants who take part in the Gospel Grocery Wagon events. The local schools will be in session as well and that will allow for afternoon deliveries with high concentrations of

students who will be outside at the low socio-economic apartment complexes, neighborhoods, and trailer parks where the project will occur. This project leader would like to propose that the project begins in mid-March. Possibly the week of March 16, 2020, with a proposed completion date of June 21, 2020. This 14-week period will allow for the Gospel Grocery Wagon to be actively sharing healthy food during the second semester of the 2019-2020 school year as well as into the early portion of the summer of 2020.

This project is at-will participation and is available to anyone who wants to be a part of the project. This applies to the residents of the many neighborhoods, apartment complexes, and trailer parks who will receive food as well as the Gospel Grocery Wagon project participants who are members of Under Over Fellowship that are willing to take part in the training. The food in this project will be offered free to anyone in need. The individuals and families that will be receiving food do not have to participate in the spiritual aspect of the project to take part in the hunger relief portion of the Gospel Grocery Wagon. However, the main purpose of the project is to address the spiritual needs of the community by sharing the hope of Christ, entering a discipleship relationship, and integrating any new believer into corporate worship with Under Over Fellowship. This project leader will be actively looking for Under Over Fellowship church members that have a desire to participate in the program to use as alternates or to replace a project participant team member should one drop out of the project. It is the goal to have at least 3 to 4 alternate project participants from Under Over Fellowship to help facilitate the implementation of the Gospel Grocery Wagon.

The Gospel Grocery Wagon servant evangelism/hunger relief strategy will use several tools to gather the data that is generated from the project. The spiritual data from the residents of the predetermined communities will be recorded by the project participants,

following IRB guidelines, using the Gospel Grocery Wagon Response Form. This form will record the hunger relief/servant evangelism recipient's name, date, contact information, prayer requests, decisions made, and if the individuals would like to participate in a John 14:6 Front Porch Bible Study or one of Under Over Fellowship's many weekly Bible studies or church services. The project participants will fill out this form on every resident who receives the gospel message or who has a prayer request. All information recorded by the project participants will be private, used only for this project, and will follow all guidelines that are laid out in the CITI Training.

The spiritual data from the project participants will be recorded through a simple ten-question survey that will be given to each participant at the beginning of phase one and the end of phase three with the completion of the project. This short survey will be a self-evaluation for each project participant that will help determine the level of comfort and confidence in sharing the gospel during the project. This survey is called: Gospel Grocery Wagon Project Participant Survey.⁹⁷

The physical and spiritual data from the neighborhood, apartment complex and trailer park residents will be recorded in the Gospel Grocery Wagon Field Log.⁹⁸ This daily log will record the number of daily individuals and families that received prayer, received the gospel, and received food from the Gospel Grocery Wagon. This log will also record the amount of food delivered in pounds per outing. This information will also be used for documentation required to provide to the food bank on how many individuals/homes were given food. During the preparation time before an event, the project participants will weigh the food on a scale to get an

⁹⁷ See appendix.

⁹⁸ Ibid.

approximation of the total weight of that day's delivery if that weight is not already known. Food that comes from the food bank will be pre-weighed by the food bank before pick-up. Food to be weighed by the Under Over Fellowship participants will come from local donations. The second form of physical data collected during the project comes from the participants on Under Over Fellowship's project participants. Each outing the attendance of team members will be recorded as well as the overall number of team members that participated in each event. This information will be recorded in the Gospel Grocery Wagon Project Participant Log.⁹⁹

Along with these four types of data collection, a journal will be kept that will record the highlights as well as the daily reflections of each of the Gospel Grocery Wagon events that occur weekly. This journal will help with the accuracy of the information that is collected during each event.

The portions of data that are to remain private per the IRB, mainly the data collected from the project participants, will be kept in the personal locked file cabinet in the church's main office at the Under Over Fellowship main campus. This office is also locked when this project leader is out of the office. All of the project participants will receive a simple code with which they will be recognized based on the second letter of their first and last name. The purpose of the coding of the data received from the project participants is to ensure complete anonymity while participating in the Gospel Grocery Wagon Hunger Relief/Servant Evangelism project.

⁹⁹ Ibid.

Implementation of the Intervention Design

A Gospel Grocery Wagon Hunger Relief event will follow this schedule on Tuesday of Every week during the project:

- Project participants arrive at Under Over Fellowship at 4:30 pm for training and prayer.
- Free fellowship dinner is served at 5:00 pm for anyone hungry. This meal was prepared by Under Over Fellowship kitchen staff who are unrelated to the project. During dinner, a brief description of the neighborhood, trailer park, or apartment complex is shared. After the brief, the project participants will gather for a final prayer as well as Daily assignments concerning what job they will have during the Gospel Grocery Wagon Hunger Relief/ Servant Evangelism outing.
- At 5:30 pm all project participants report to the Under Over Fellowship Kitchen for food preparation on the Gospel Grocery Wagon. Frozen food is loaded into coolers with ice and then loaded onto the GGW along with the refrigerated food. All dry food is loaded onto the trailer that will follow the Gospel Grocery Wagon into the predetermined neighborhood, trailer park, or apartment complex.
- Get on the bus at 6:00!
- Arrive by 6:15 pm in the local neighborhood, trailer park, or apartment complex. It should be noted that the plan for this project is during the late spring and early summer. During this time in southeast Texas, sunset might not occur till 9:00 p.m. and this allows the project to work later in the evening. This helps the project participant with the physical nature of the project.

- At 6:20 pm boxer teams begin creating cold boxes and dry boxes from the GGW and the trailer. Boxer teams will be trained to fill boxes with a variety of products that will provide the most nutritionally balanced box possible using the foods we have. Evangelist teams begin to methodically make their way through the neighborhood, trailer Park, or apartment complex. The runners begin to dolly food from the Gospel Grocery Wagon to the evangelist teams that are engaged in the gospel.
- Return to Under Over Fellowship by 8:00 pm to debrief, pray, clean the Gospel Grocery Wagon and the trailer, and prepare the bus for the next event.
- Dismiss Teams at 8:30 pm

A Gospel Grocery Wagon Hunger Relief/Servant Evangelism event will follow this schedule on Wednesday:

- Under Over Fellowship pastoral staff along with the Gospel Grocery Wagon project participants will gather at 4:30 pm for a time of prayer concerning those individuals that made professions of faith or requested to know more about Jesus.
- At 5:00 pm the two to three-person teams will get on the bus and head into the community to conduct 20-minute John 14:6 Front Porch Bible Studies with those that have made professions of faith in Jesus Christ. Teams will bring a simple food item every time as a gift to the family that is hosting the John 14:6 Front Porch Bible Study.
- At 5:30 teams should move to the second location within the neighborhood, trailer park, or an apartment complex for the next John 14:6 Front Porch Bible Study. If there is no second location, teams should report to the bus to return to Under Over Fellowship.

- During this process project participants will encourage those participating in the John 14:6 Front Porch Bible Studies to “Get on the bus!” and use Under Over Fellowship’s bus ministry that already operates in the neighborhoods, trailer parks, and apartment complexes in the community to provide transportation on Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings for those wanting to attend Under Over Fellowship’s weekly services. Anyone wishing to ride the Gospel Grocery Wagon to church will also be able to participate in our family-style dinner served each Wednesday night. The bus will run people home after church.

A Gospel Grocery Wagon Hunger Relief event will follow this schedule on Thursday of Every week during the project:

- On Thursday the Gospel Grocery Wagon receives food from the Montgomery County Food Bank. For the project participants that can attend, the GGW will report to Under Over Fellowship at 2:00 pm and then travel to Montgomery County Food Bank via the Gospel Grocery Wagon.
- At 2:30 pm the project participants will begin loading the GGW and the dry food trailer with the food at the food bank. This process can take between 45 minutes to an hour.
- Around 3:30 pm the project participants will return to Under Over Fellowship.
- At 4:00 pm the project participants will unload the frozen and refrigerated food into the cold storage in the Under Over Fellowship church kitchen.
- All other project participants arrive at Under Over Fellowship at 4:30 pm for training and prayer.

- Free fellowship dinner is served at 5:00 pm for anyone hungry. This meal was prepared by Under Over Fellowship kitchen staff who are unrelated to the project. During dinner, a brief description of the neighborhood, trailer park, or apartment complex is shared. After the brief, the project participants will gather for a final prayer as well as Daily assignments concerning what job they will have during the Gospel Grocery Wagon Hunger Relief/ Servant Evangelism outing.
- At 5:30 pm all project participants report to the Under Over Fellowship Kitchen for food preparation on the Gospel Grocery Wagon. Frozen food is loaded into the cooler with ice and then loaded onto the GGW along with the refrigerated food. All dry food is loaded onto the trailer that will follow the Gospel Grocery Wagon into the predetermined neighborhood, trailer park, or apartment complex.
- Get on the bus at 6:00!
- Arrive by 6:15 pm in the local neighborhood, trailer park, or apartment complex. It should be noted that the plan for this project is during the late spring and early summer. During this time in southeast Texas, sunset might not occur till 9:00 p.m. and this allows the project to work later in the evening. This helps the project participant with the physical nature of the project.
- At 6:20 pm boxer teams begin creating cold boxes and dry boxes from the GGW and the trailer. Evangelist teams begin to methodically make their way through the neighborhood, trailer Park, or apartment complex. The runners begin to dolly food from the Gospel Grocery Wagon to the evangelist teams that are engaged in the gospel.

- Return to Under Over Fellowship by 8:00 pm to debrief, pray, clean the Gospel Grocery Wagon and the trailer, and prepare the bus for the next event.
- Dismiss Teams at 8:30 pm

A Gospel Grocery Wagon Hunger Relief/Servant Evangelism event will follow this schedule on Sunday:

- Under Over Fellowship pastoral staff along with the Gospel Grocery Wagon project participants will gather at 3:30 pm for a time of prayer concerning those individuals that made professions of faith.
- At 4:00 pm the two to three-person teams will get on the bus and head into the community to conduct 20-minute John 14:6 Front Porch Bible Studies with those that have made professions of faith in Jesus Christ. follow up and professions of faith every Wednesday throughout the project beginning at 4:30 pm. Teams will bring a simple food item every time as a gift to the family that is hosting the John 14:6 Front Porch Bible Study.
- At 4:30 teams should move to the second location within the neighborhood, trailer park, or an apartment complex for the next John 14:6 Front Porch Bible Study. If there is no second location the teams should report to the bus to return to Under Over Fellowship.
- During this process project participants will encourage those participating in the John 14:6 Front Porch Bible Studies to “Get on the bus!” and use Under Over Fellowship’s bus ministry that already operates in the neighborhoods, trailer parks, and apartment complexes in the community to provide transportation on Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings for those wanting to attend Under Over Fellowship’s weekly services.

Evaluating Success

The criteria for evaluating the success of the project are twofold. The first area of evaluation is spiritual and the second will be an evaluation of the physical needs met throughout the project. The first area of spiritual data is from the project recipients. Mainly, the individuals and families in the surrounding neighborhoods, trailer parks, and apartment complexes that receive the gospel and food from the Gospel Grocery Wagon.:

- The number of individuals prayed with throughout the project.
- The number of individuals that received a gospel presentation throughout the project.
- The number of individuals made a profession of faith throughout the project as a direct result of the Gospel Grocery Wagon Hunger Relief /Servant Evangelism strategy.
- The number of individuals and/or families that participated in the John 14:6 Front Porch Bible Studies.
- The number of recipients that were incorporated into church life at Under Over Fellowship. This project leader set a goal of 15 individuals who would receive the gospel, be disciplined, and then would willingly join the congregation of Under Over Fellowship as an integrated member, thus providing a valid methodology for church growth for the unattractual church.

Although this project is aimed at reaching the individuals and families in local neighborhoods, trailer parks, and apartment complexes surrounding Under Over Fellowship, there is another participant group that will reveal a substantial amount of data that will assist in determining the success or failure of the project. That group is the project participants. The individuals that made

up the day-to-day mechanism of the Gospel Grocery Wagon. Boxers, runners, evangelists, and John 14:6 Bible Study leaders from Under Over Fellowship. The Under Over Fellowship spiritual data consists of:

- The number of individuals on the Under Over project participant teams that were able to pray with individuals during the project and has their willingness to pray with strangers increased as well. Data from survey question(s) for project participants to establish how comfortable they feel with praying with individuals before and after the servant evangelism/hunger relief project
- The number of individuals on the Under Over project participant teams that were able to share the gospel with individuals in the neighborhoods, trailer parks, and apartment complexes. Would the project participants say that they feel more confident after the project with sharing the gospel than they did before the project started? Data from the survey question(s) for project participants to establish how often and how comfortable they feel with sharing the gospel with individuals.
- The survey question(s) for the project participants to evaluate their overall spiritual growth throughout the project.

The second source of data for the servant evangelism/hunger relief project is physical instead of spiritual. The neighborhood, trailer park, and apartment complex participants as well as participants from Under Over Fellowship will provide physical data that will add to the determination of the success of the Gospel Grocery Trailer strategy. The neighborhood, trailer park, and apartment complex data will yield from:

- The number of individuals and/or families per outing, week, month, as well as during the overall project that received a portion of the food.
- The total number of pounds of food that was delivered into the predetermined neighborhoods, trailer parks, and apartment complexes per outing, week, month, as well as during the overall project.

Under Over Fellowship data will yield from:

- The number of project participants that were a part of the Gospel Grocery Wagon per outing, week, month, as well as during the overall project.
- The number of project participants that would be willing to continue to be a part of the Gospel Grocery Wagon as a continuing ministry for Under Over Fellowship.

This project leader has created five criteria that will determine the success of the Gospel Grocery Trailer servant evangelism/hunger relief strategy. A successful outcome for the project can be determined if any of these criteria are met:

- Was the gospel of Jesus Christ shared during the project? If the answer is yes, then the project will have been successful. “And he said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.” (Mark 16:15)
- Were individuals prayed for when the prayer request was made? If the answer is yes, then the project will have been successful. “Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.” (James 5:16)

- Was there at least one profession of faith? If the answer is yes, then the project will have been successful. The project goal is 15 but it is believed that if the Gospel Grocery Wagon leads even one person to Christ, then it is a success. “Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.” (Luke 15:10)
- Were the hungry fed and the thirsty given something to drink in the name of Christ? If the answer is yes, then the project will have been successful. “For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink... ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink?... And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’” (Matthew 25:35-40) As well as fulfilling the command of Christ to His disciples, in Mark 6, to take on the responsibility and give the people something to eat.
- Was the faith of the saints strengthened? If the answer is yes, then the project will have been successful. “And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds, and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,” (Ephesians 4:11-12)
- Were there new believers added to the unattractual church called Under Over Fellowship through the sharing of the gospel and discipleship through the John 14:6 Front Porch Bible Studies? If the answer is yes, then the Gospel Grocery Wagon Hunger Relief/Servant Evangelism project will have been a success. Incorporating new believers into a family of believers is important to help maintain a new believer’s growth. Discipling new believers are just as vital as leading them to the Lord. It is important to find a comfortable place for new members to serve and work as they grow in fellowship

at the church. Members of Under Over Fellowship that may not be able to be project participants on the Gospel Grocery Wagon will play a vital role in using their gifts of hospitality to welcome new members and families as they come to Wednesday and Sunday services. Every single member of Under Over Fellowship will have an impact upon those that are reached through the Gospel Grocery Wagon.

The idea of servant evangelism and hunger relief are not new ideas. However, the partnering of the two together appears to be a unique concept with little application in Under Over Fellowship's immediate community. The two concepts independently have great application across modern evangelicalism. So, the sharing of the gospel throughout the project will be very comparable to traditional approaches to one-on-one evangelizing. On the same note, the concept of hunger relief and the Gospel Grocery Wagon food delivery is very comparable. Many churches in the area have food pantries of one kind another or have a weekly meal for those in need. However, no churches, that this project leader is aware of, are actively bringing the food to the people. There are secular organizations, such as Meals on Wheels, that provide physical sustenance by bringing food, but sadly, they are lacking in the spiritual food that will give them eternal life. Many people find themselves in need, but because of pride, lack of transportation, or intimidation of the church will never seek out the food freely offered at other sites. It is believed that as Jesus traveled around to teach and preach and reach, so too should the local church. Stagnancy, in the idea that the church is merely an isolated location, can limit the church body from meeting the needs of the local community. Training the church to feel as comfortable talking about the gospel outside of the walls of the church as well as inside is a much-desired side effect of this project and will, in this project leader's opinion, create stronger believers and a stronger church that is outwardly focused on Jesus. So, it is the intentional

sharing of the gospel partnered with hunger relief in the neighborhood, trailer parks, and apartment complexes that seems to be very different from anything that the local church is doing in Under Over Fellowship's city.

Chapter Four

Results

The Gospel Grocery Wagon Hunger Relief/ Servant Evangelism project officially began on April 6, 2020, with 42 volunteers. At this time the official Covid-19 Pandemic was only about a month into official lockdowns. This project leader was currently living at Under Over Fellowship in the church's main office to be able to oversee the massive amount of food that was coming into Under Over Fellowship. A large amount of food had been redirected to this church because all of the other ministries and non-profits in the area that received food from Keep Us Fed, a food reclamation non-profit, had shut down due to the pandemic. Under Over Fellowship was the only entity in the county that was receiving food and would be the only entity for a great deal of the pandemic taking that food into the neighborhoods, trailer parks, and apartment complexes. The project participants began training via zoom. Each of the participants took the pre-project survey and was willing to take the chance of exposure to the virus to share the hope of Christ partnered with food with a hurting and scared community. As terrible as it sounds, the pandemic was the perfect foundation for this project. Conroe, Texas was like the rest of the country, locked down, with most people at home missing work, school, and the local church to help with the spiritual, emotional, physical, and financial stress of the pandemic. The project participants understood the risk that was involved in delivering food and sharing the gospel door to door. Under Over Fellowship had the freedom to move throughout the local neighborhoods, trailer parks, and apartment complexes due to being deemed essential by the local city and county government because of the provision of food to the local community.

The first official day of the Gospel Grocery Wagon Hunger Relief/ Servant Evangelism Project was Monday, April 13, 2020. This outing was one of three that would be performed

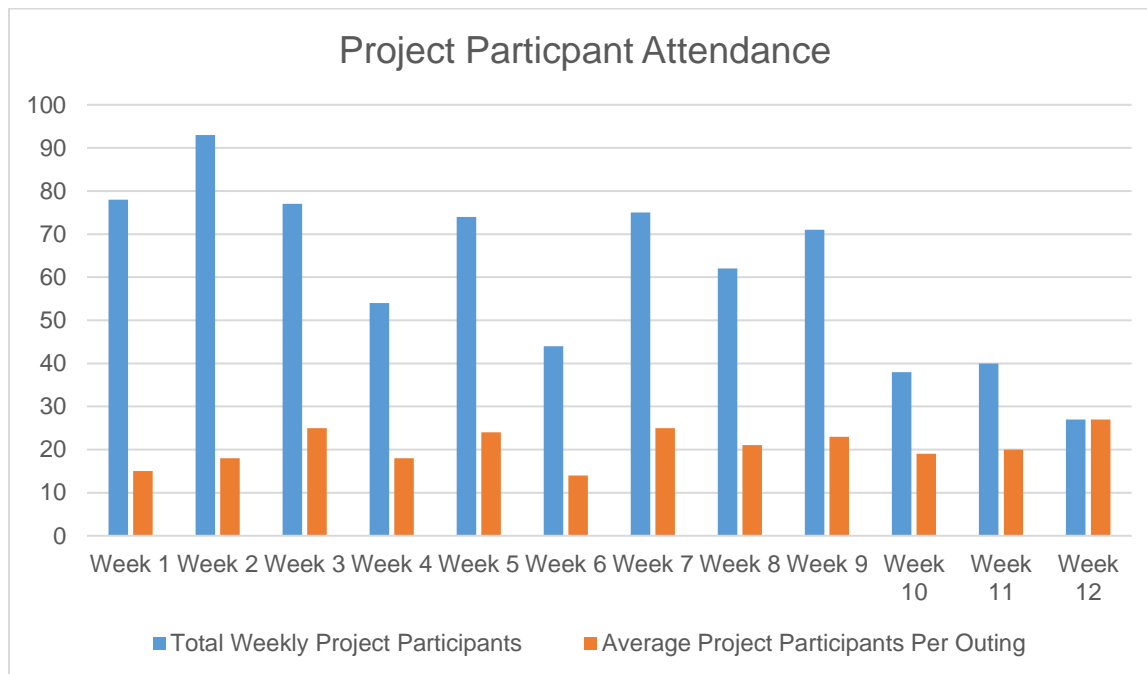
without the 1998 San Antonio transit bus that was affectionately named Mabel. The runs before receiving the bus were made using a couple of church-owned trailers. These runs were logistically more difficult due to the weather in Texas. In April, temperatures can still reach into the '90s and those temperatures make it difficult to transport food at a safe temperature. The official Gospel Grocery Wagon, "Mabel," showed up the second week of the project and was used the remaining time of the project. The bus allows the food as well as project participants to be transported in an air-conditioned space and helps with the safety aspect of massive food delivery.

Attendance

The actual outings of the Gospel grocery Wagon were very different than the intended schedule previously discussed in the Implementation of the Intervention Design. This project leader scheduled as many outings as possible that would correspond with the original plan. However, due to the massive amount of the food being delivered to Under Over Fellowship the outings on the Gospel Grocery Wagon were every day. This overabundance might seem troublesome with the assigning of volunteers but on the contrary, it did not. Due to the Pandemic lockdown, a great portion of the project participants were out of work or working from home. This allowed for their schedules to be more accommodating for the increased food delivery. Thanks to the abundance of Jesus, each outing during the entire project the Gospel Grocery Wagon Hunger Relief/ Servant Evangelism project had more than enough project participants to feed the people spiritually and physically.

The following chart shows the number of volunteers per week throughout the Gospel Grocery Wagon Hunger Relief/Servant Evangelism project. After the initial rush and the

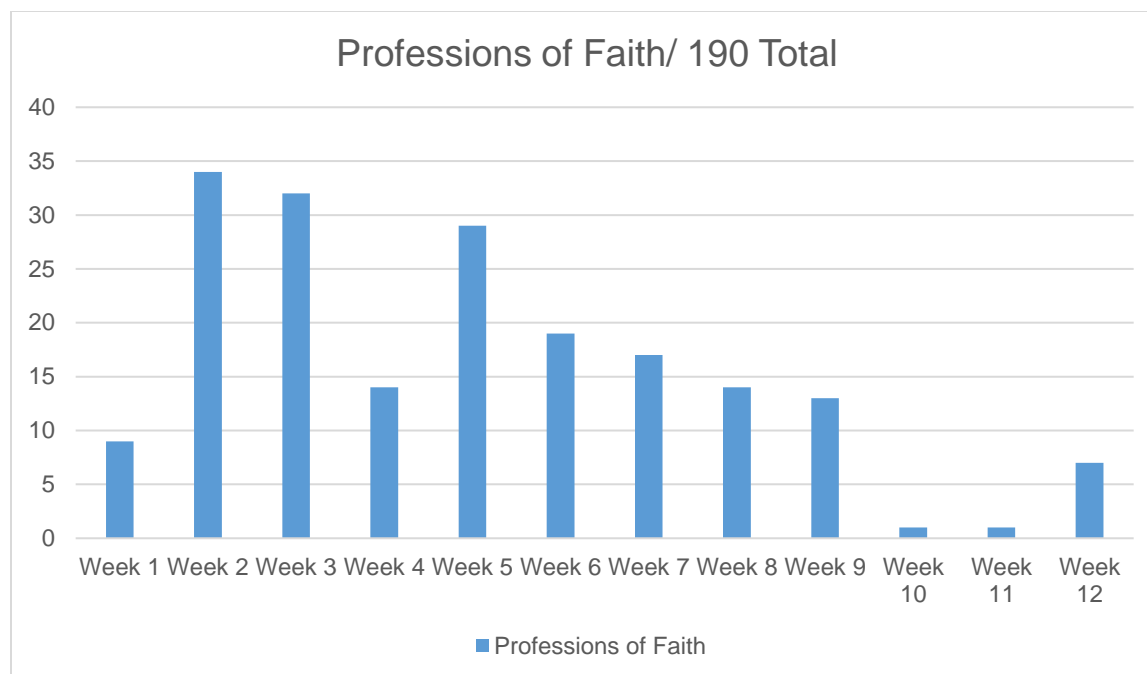
beginning of the project, the amount of food donated began to level out and the GGW was making an outing three times a week on average.



The data reveals that throughout the entire project the Gospel Grocery Wagon's attendance per outing remained steady during the term of the study. In the beginning, there were more volunteers as well as more outings. As the amount of food received began to level out through the course of the 12-week project it allowed for a more normal schedule for outings into the neighborhoods, trailer parks, and apartment complexes. The addition of John 14:6 Front Porch Bible Studies also benefitted from the slower pace of GGW outings later in the project. Overall, without mentioning the results from the Pre and Post Survey, which will be addressed later, this project leader is very proud of the project participants who also are members of Under Over Fellowship. Although not all 42 original project participants made every outing of the Gospel Grocery Wagon the group as a whole made this project possible and this project leader is very grateful. The Lord truly used their servant hearts and attitudes to lead hundreds to Jesus.

Prayer, Gospel Shares, and Professions of Faith

At the beginning of the project, the project participants were recording the number of opportunities that were created for prayer and total gospel shares. However, as the project progressed the pace and physical demand of the day-to-day outings increased, the project participants were asked to focus on professions of faith in Christ as well as follow-up. GGW leaders learned first-hand from the volunteers themselves that the gospel was shared at least 800 times with just as many opportunities for prayer. This project leader does have solid data on the number of professions of faith for the entirety of the project. It is believed that the spiritual response from the majority of recipients of the Gospel Grocery Wagon were genuine. One aspect of the project in regards to the spiritual response that could not be measured was the fear and uncertainty of the future that was felt by the people in the neighborhoods, trailer parks, and apartment complexes that the GGW worked in day to day. The people that the Gospel Grocery Wagon pastoral leadership and project participants interacted with over the 12-week project required physical help and spiritual hope. As unfortunate as the Covid-19 pandemic is, the Lord used it to provide a field ready for the harvest.



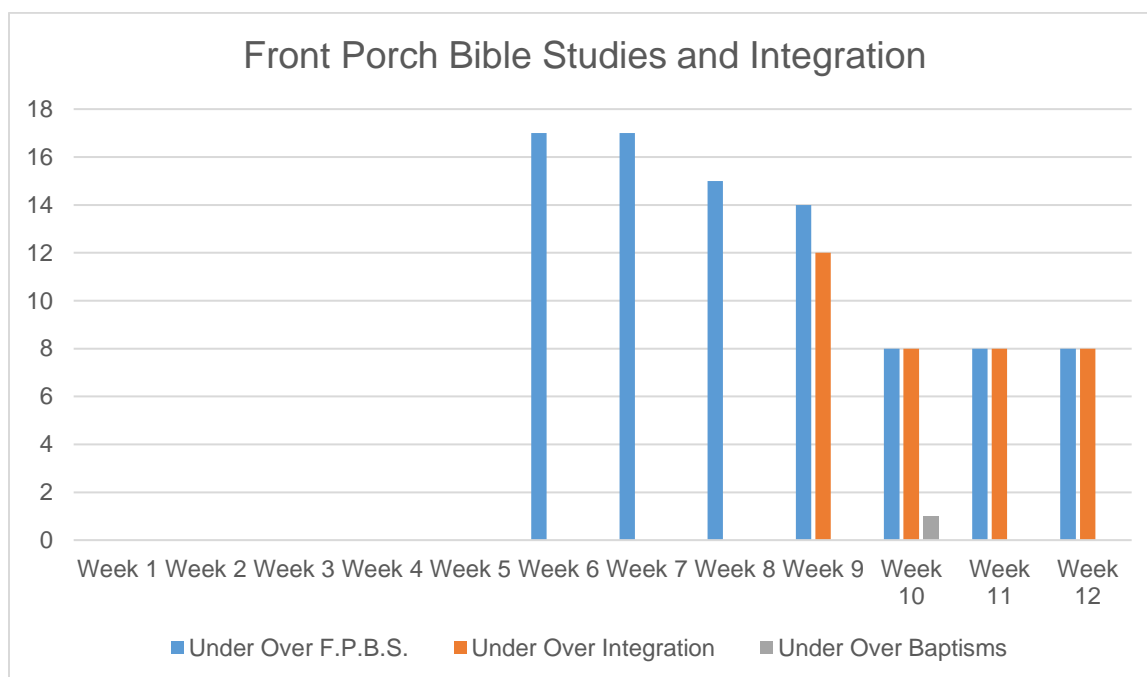
The Gospel Grocery Wagon Hunger Relief/Servant Evangelism project, through the power of the Holy Spirit, yielded 190 total professions of faith in Jesus Christ. It is understood that this number, as exciting as it is, will only be found true over time and through the discipleship process that will yield its data. It is believed that the data reveals two very important things connected to the importance of this study. The first is that when food is partnered with the gospel it yields a substantial response from the recipients. This process has provided more door-to-door, cold call, positive, personal evangelism opportunities than any other evangelistic tool that this project leader has implemented over the last 25 years of ministry. The GGW project has also yielded the largest response spiritually, as a product of ministry, that Under Over Fellowship has ever seen in its 11 years of existence. The second interesting piece of data that has been revealed over the 12 weeks is the steady decline in the number of salvations throughout the project. It is believed that this result is due to two main causes. The first being the decrease in the weekly number of outings during the project as food supplies begin to return to pre-Covid-19 numbers. Secondly, the belief is that the data shows evidence of gospel saturation within the 16

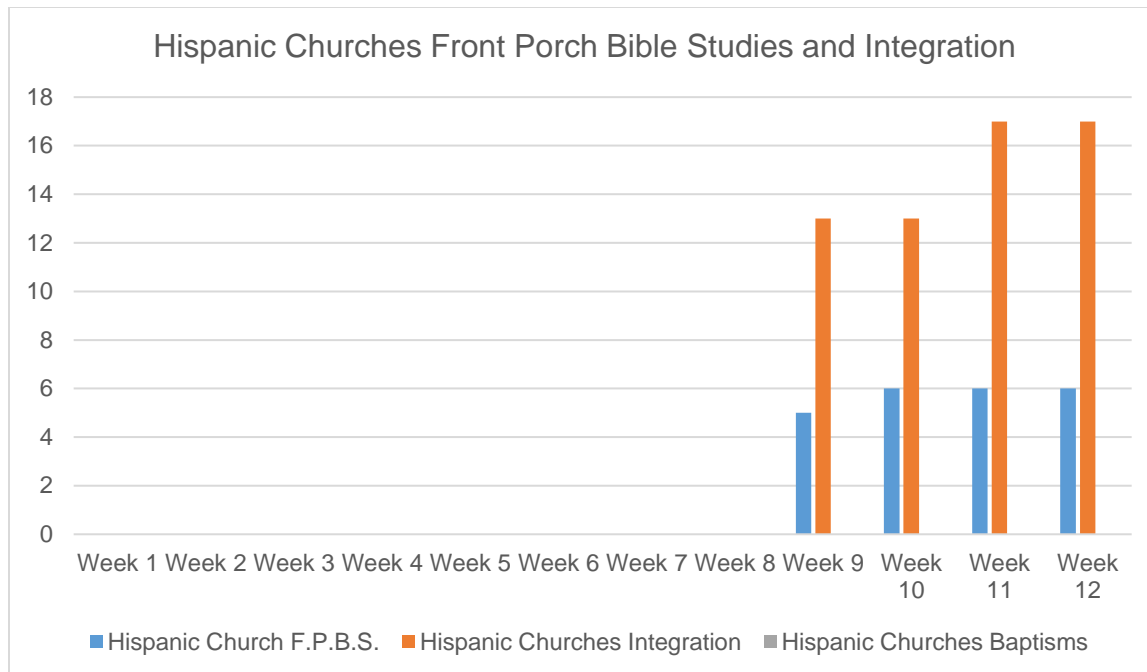
predetermined neighborhoods, trailer parks, and apartment complexes that were chosen for the Gospel Grocery Wagon project. By no means does this project leader believe that these neighborhoods have yielded all of its harvests but the belief is that the data shows that at least during the 12 weeks of the project that these selected areas were saturated with the gospel message so thoroughly that it created a natural decline over time in the number of professions of faith. The 12-week focus in certain areas within the community has also been very beneficial in building relationships with those who have made professions of faith. These new relationships are the foundation for the next step of the process in the Gospel Grocery Wagon Hunger Relief/ Servant Evangelism project and that is the John 14:6 Front Porch Bible Study.

John 14:6 Front Porch Bible Study/ Integration into Under Over Fellowship

The John 14:6 Front Porch Bible Study was designed before the Pandemic for recipients of the Gospel Grocery Wagon to participate in a Bible study on common ground. The concept was to create an opportunity to disciple new believers in a location that would be comfortable to them. This comfortable place for discipleship became the perfect location during the pandemic for the GGW pastoral leadership and the project participants. The Bible Studies were able to be held outside to safely disciple individuals and families while social distancing. This process of beginning certain John 14:6 Bible Studies was delayed in the earlier portion of the project due to the State of Texas limiting gatherings. However, as the restrictions began to lift around week 6 of the project this project leader was able to begin the discipleship process. The purpose of these Bible studies was twofold. The first was to disciple new Christians that had made professions of faith during a Gospel Grocery Wagon outing. The second purpose was to create relationships between the project participants that were leading the John 14:6 Bible Studies and the recipients with the hopes of incorporating them into the Under Over Fellowship congregation. A positive

unintentional consequence that happened as a result of moving into this phase of the project was the partnership with two sister Hispanic Baptist churches. Spanish-speaking volunteers had accompanied Mabel on the grocery runs and had been extremely valuable to our non-English-speaking neighborhoods. Many non-English speaking people were experiencing salvation but the Gospel Grocery Wagon participants had no way to disciple or incorporate those individuals into the English-speaking congregation of Under Over Fellowship. This project leader shared the project with the pastors of two sister Hispanic churches in the area and they both agreed to partner and be trained in the process of the Hunger Relief Program of the Gospel Grocery Wagon. Both of these men then joined the GGW in leading Front Porch Bible Studies with these Spanish-speaking individuals and families. These new believers would then be integrated into the Spanish congregations instead of Under Over Fellowship.





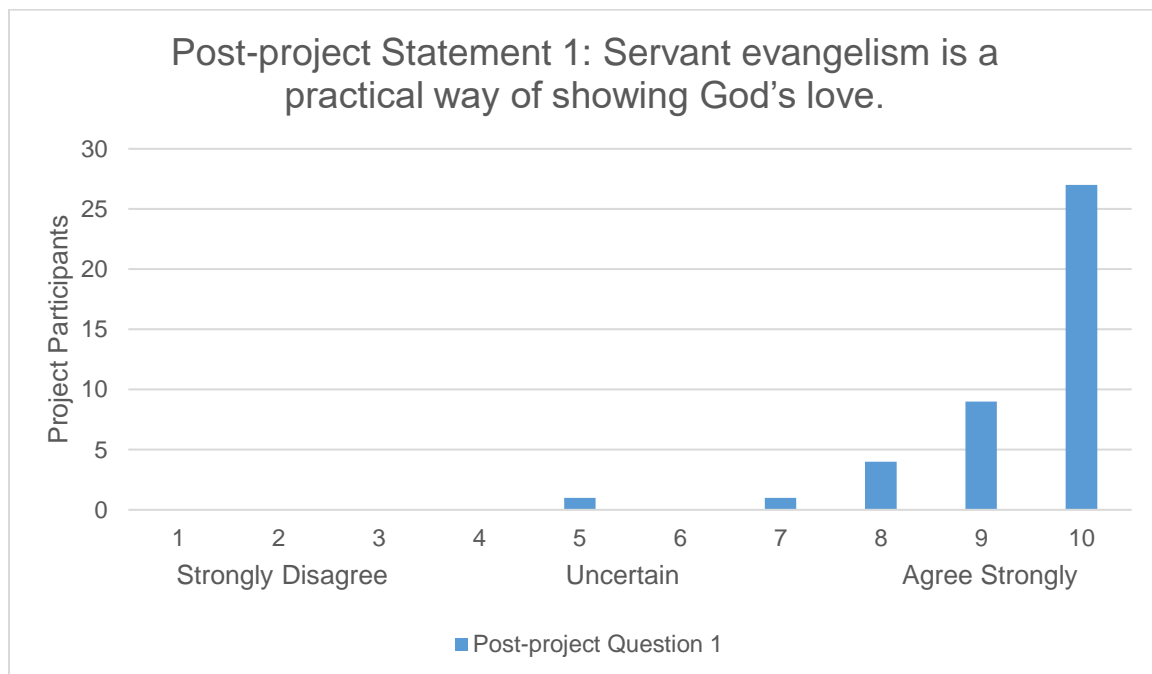
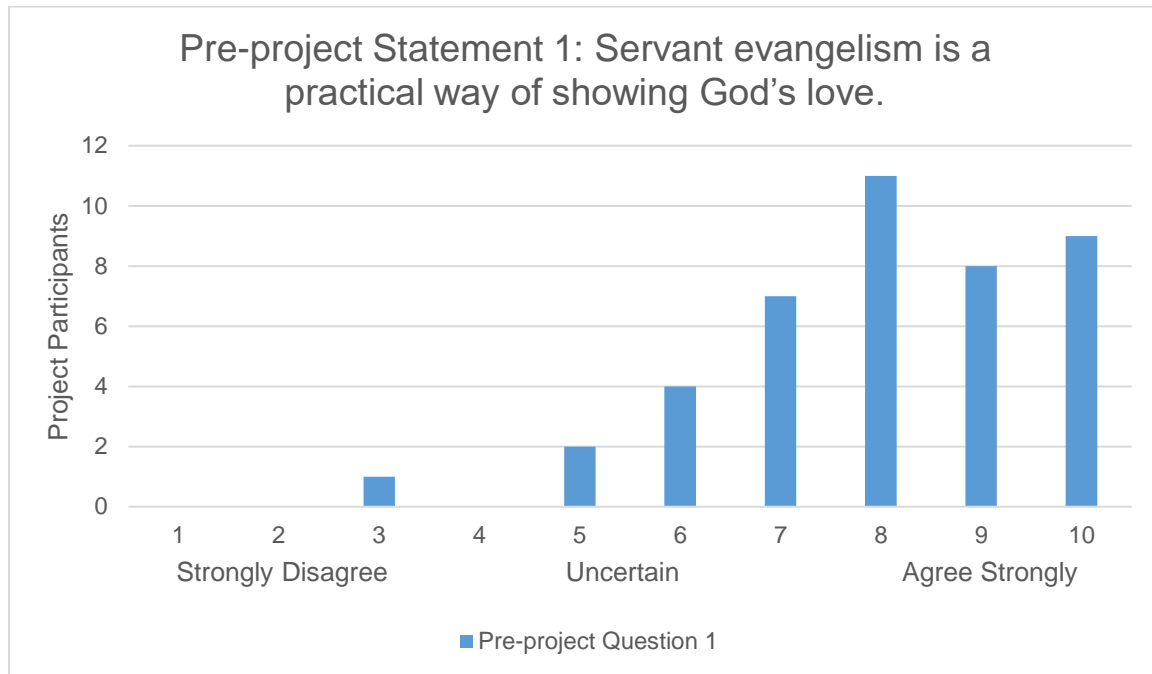
The data may seem skewed when one looks at the graph. However, it reflects the reopening of the state during the pandemic. Contacts were prepared for Front Porch Bible Studies but were unable to begin those studies until week 6 of the project when the rigid Covid lockdown restrictions had been lifted. This project leader was pleased with the result of this portion of the project. The Lord provided the opportunity to begin 17 John 14:6 Front Porch Bible Studies in week 6 and by the end of the 4-week process 14 of those Bible studies remained. It also should be noted that the data reflects the transition of twelve individuals from the John 14:6 Front Porch Bible Studies into the congregation at Under Over Fellowship. By the end of the project, Under Over Fellowship had retained 8 individuals in the corporate church services including 1 baptism. The two Hispanic sister churches also saw similar results as they began 6 John 14:6 Front Porch Bible Studies. The first church, Iglesia Bautista Getsemani, began 2 front porch bible studies which yielded 7 individuals into the congregation and Iglesia Bautista Hispana de Conroe lead 4 Front Porch Bible Studies that brought 10 individuals to join them in corporate Sunday worship.

This process for both Under Over Fellowship, an unattractual church, as well as the two Hispanic congregations that are very traditional in their methodology and worship, saw an increase in church growth as a direct result of the Gospel Grocery Wagon Hunger Relief/Servant Evangelism project. What the data doesn't show was the result of the last 4 weeks of the project were 8 new John 14:6 Front Porch Bible Studies. The first round of Bible studies yielded 8 new church members that became a part of Under Over Fellowship through baptism, transfer of letter, or by profession of faith. Week 12 of the project fell during the third week of the second round of 8 new John 14:6 Front Porch Bible Studies. These 8 Bible studies finished one week after the close of the project. The second round added 3 new members into the Under Over Family. It also should be noted that some individuals that received food from the Gospel Grocery Wagon immediately began to attend church services at Under Over Fellowship. Although this was not the norm, this project leader thought that it was important to mention.

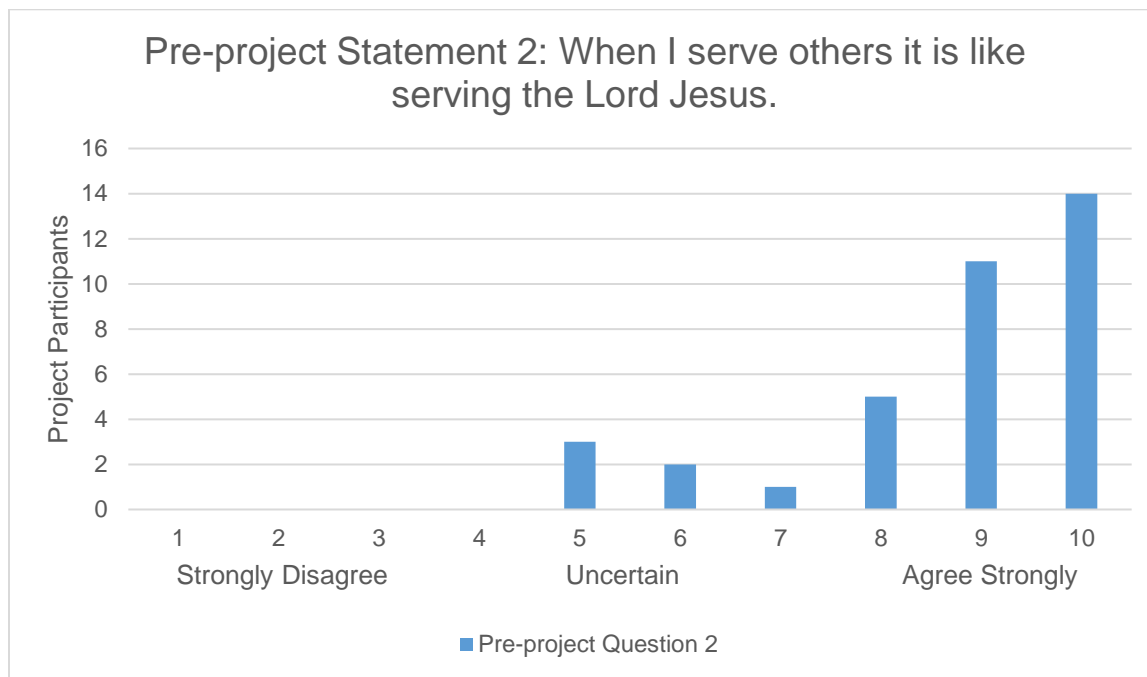
Pre and Post Project Survey

Under Over Fellowship was blessed, despite the pandemic, to have 42 project participants that took part in the Gospel Grocery Wagon Hunger Relief/Servant Evangelism project at some point during the 14 weeks. As exciting as the data was from the neighborhoods, trailer parks, and apartment complexes, the results of the data from the Pre and Post Project Survey that was given to the project participants were just as pleasing. One of the goals for judging rather the project was a success was to see the impact that the project had on the project participant's willingness to share the gospel. The hope is that the project would not only prove to be a valid methodology for church growth for the unconventional church but that it would also serve as an opportunity for spiritual growth for the project participants who are members of Under Over Fellowship.

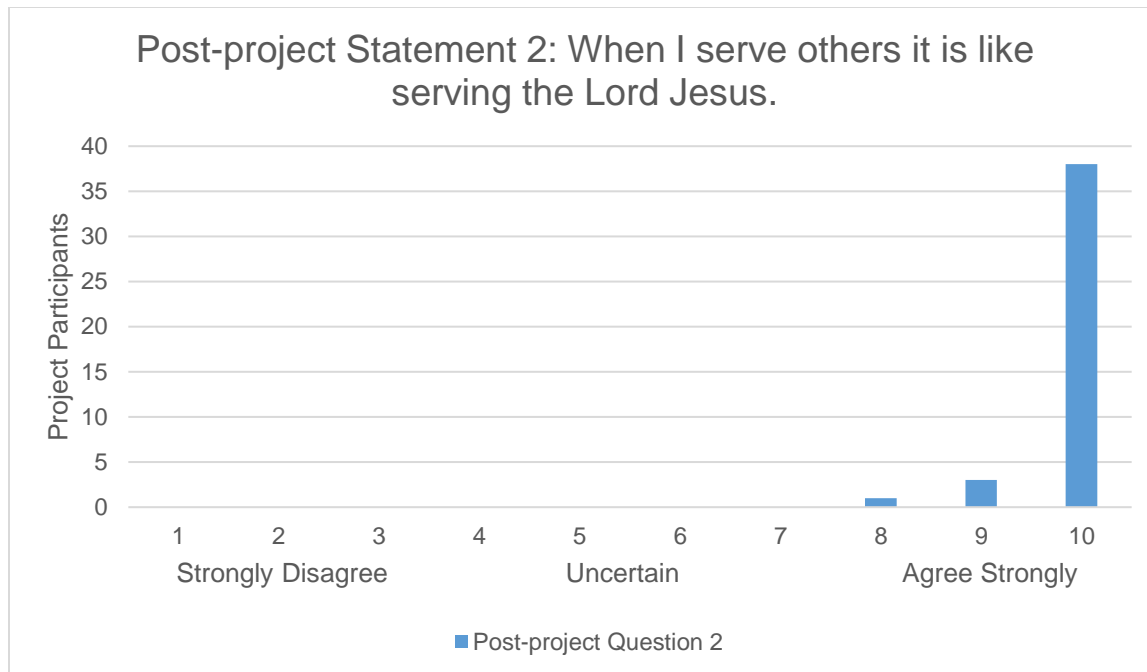
This project leader will look at each question pre-project and post-project to see what the data yields. Each survey question will be referenced as a footnote.



Statement 1 in the survey for the project participants deals primarily with the validity of servant evangelism as a practical way to show God’s love.¹⁰⁰ The data reveals that the project participants mostly agreed with the statement. The post-survey shows that the project participants were even more confident in the validity of servant evangelism after participating in the Gospel Grocery Wagon project.

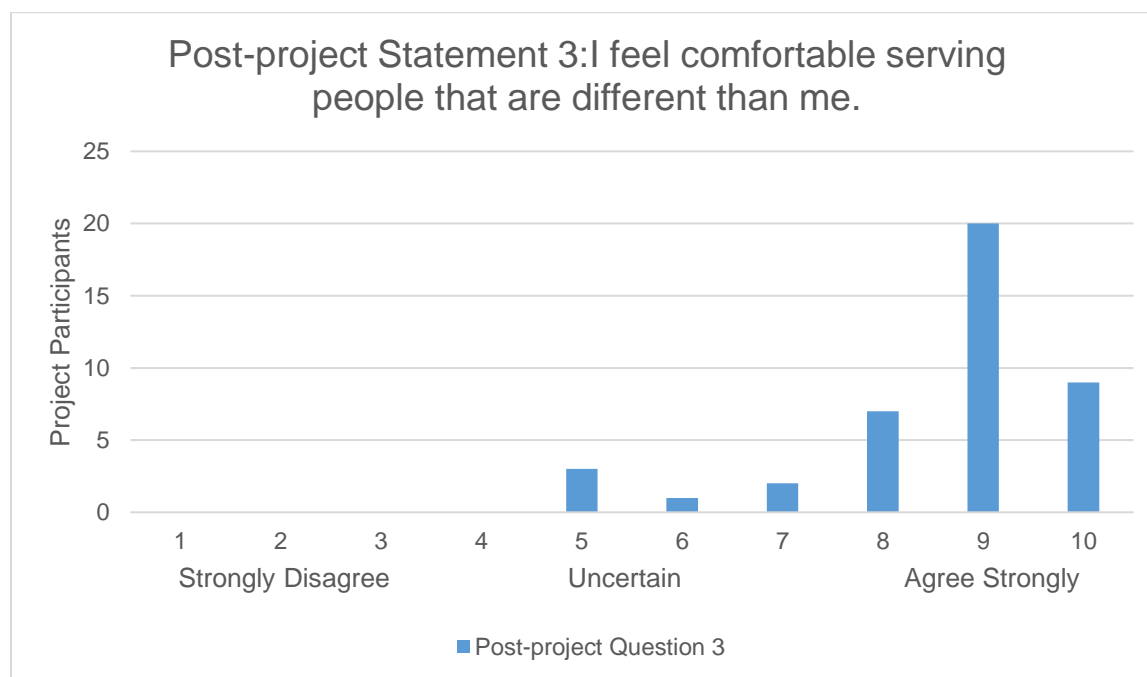
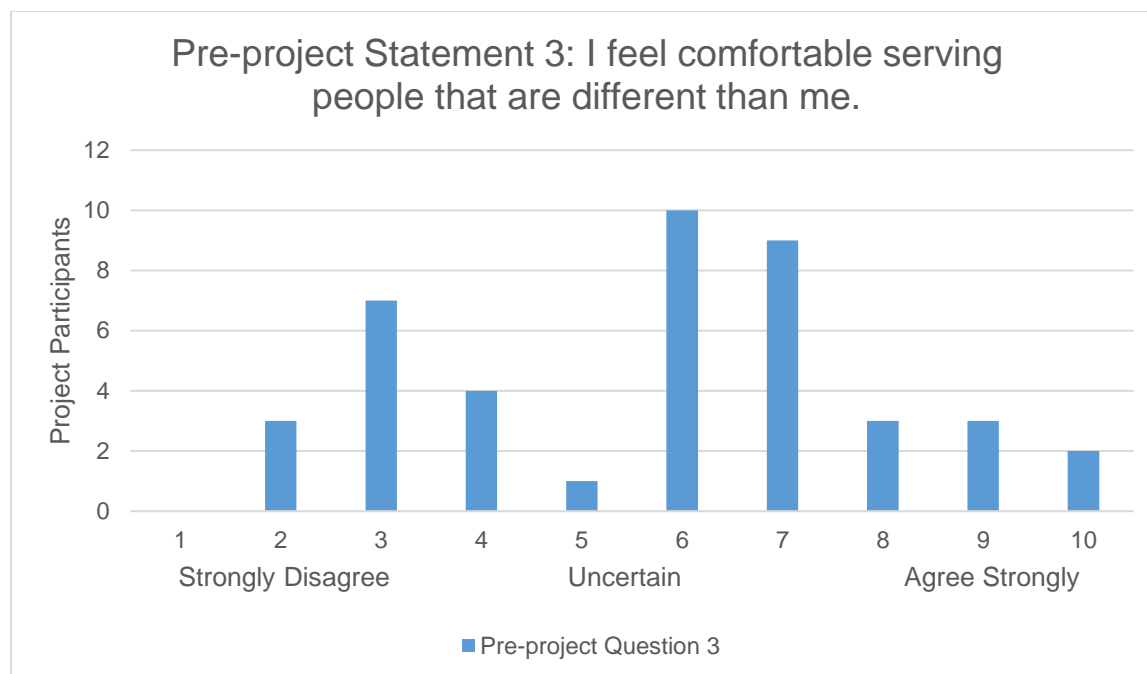


¹⁰⁰ Pre- and Post- Survey Statement 1: Servant evangelism is a practical way of showing God’s love.



Statement 2 for the Pre and Post Survey was identical.¹⁰¹ The concern was with how the project participants viewed their service when they served others based on the pre-survey results. A good follow-up question might have been regarding what percentage of their service was geared toward making themselves feel better versus serving the Lord. The results of the question after the project did ease the concern with 90% of the project participants agreeing strongly with the statement.

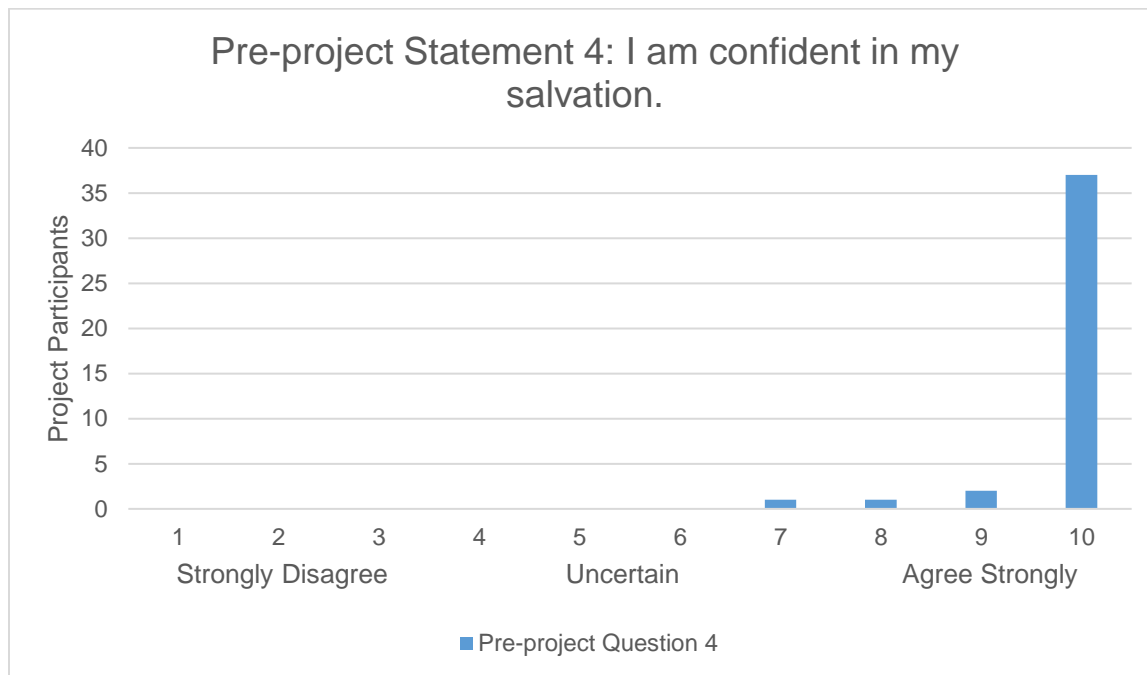
¹⁰¹ Pre- and Post- Survey Statement 2: When I serve others it is like serving the Lord Jesus.

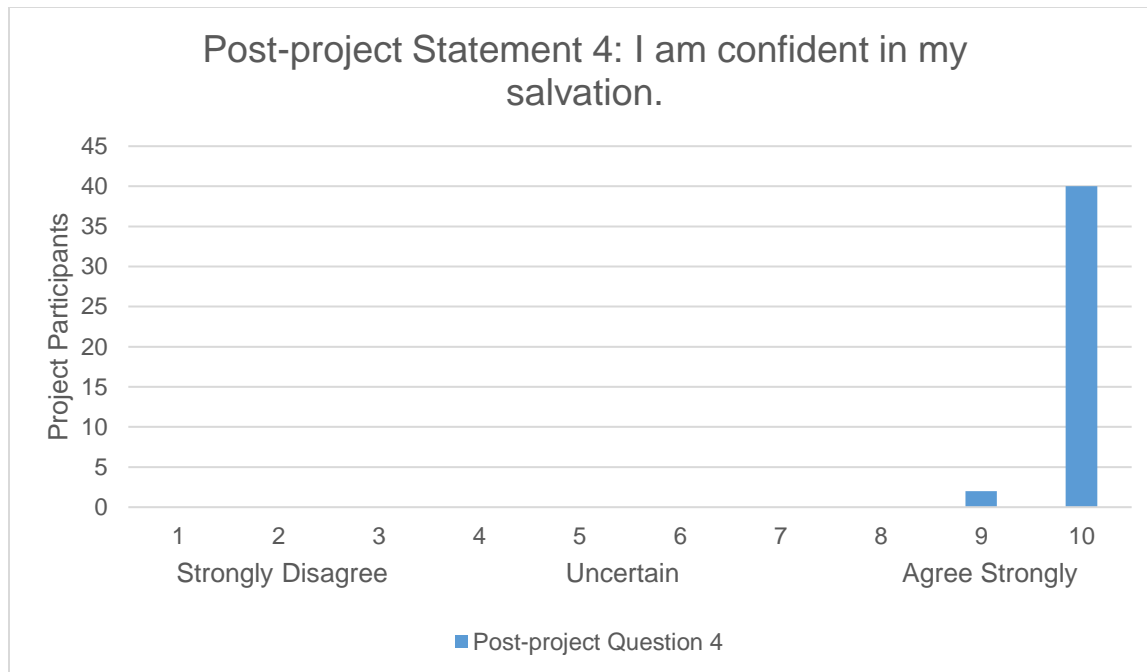


The data from statement 3 revealed important information about Under Over Fellowship.¹⁰² This project leader would have considered Under Over Fellowship a multiethnic

¹⁰² Pre- and Post- Survey Statement 3: I feel comfortable serving people that are different than me.

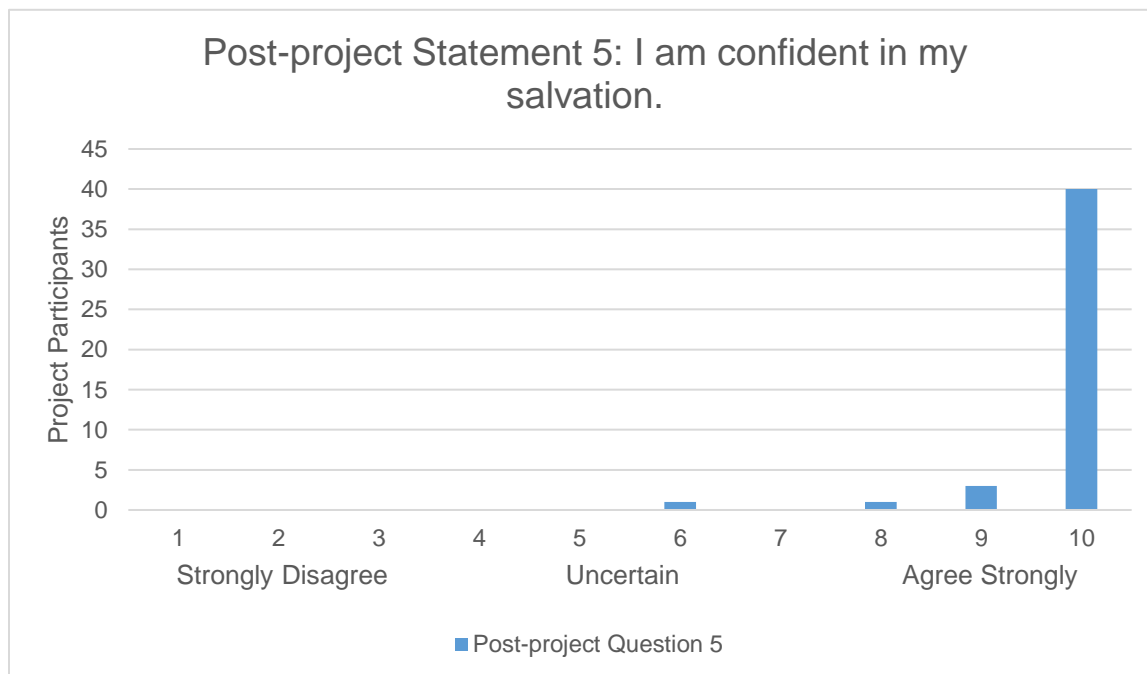
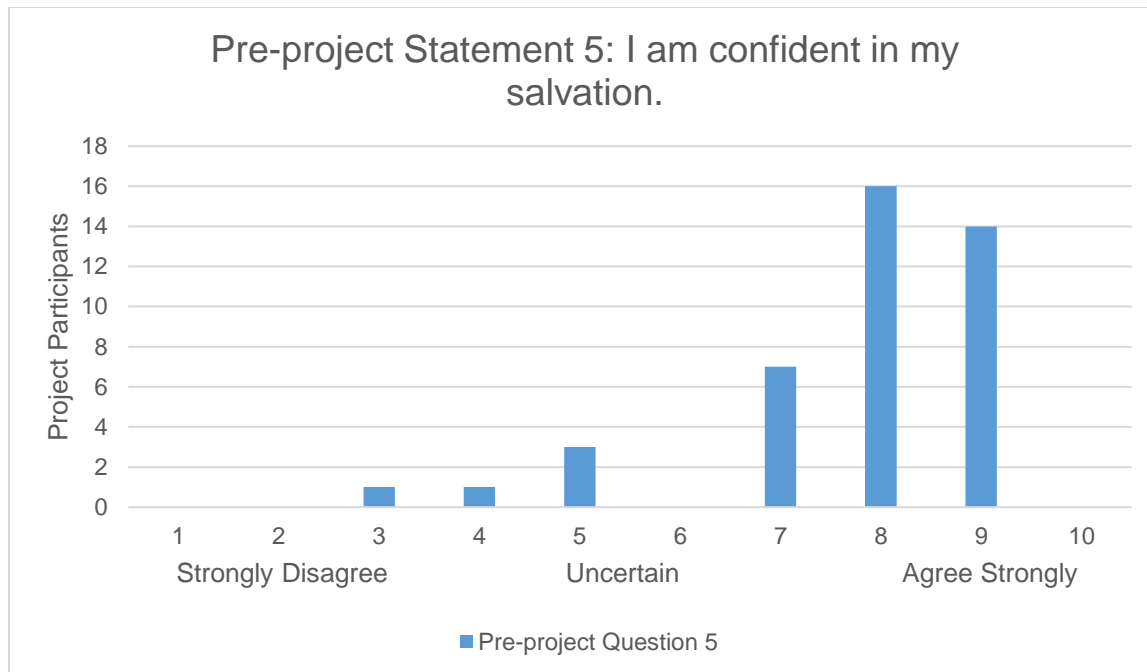
church that is very comfortable with serving someone different. This congregation serves the homeless weekly and a large portion of the church is made up of non-homeless individuals and families. However, the data shows that even with the church serving in the way it does that there is still some anxiety in serving someone of a different race, culture, or language.





The results for the pre-survey and the post-survey are very similar for statement 4.¹⁰³ The data was able to be used in the training of the project participants to go over the assurance of the believer. The GGW pastoral leadership was able to drive this home using the John 14:6 Evangelism Tool’s third teaching point: The Life of the Gospel. By the end of the project, 90% of the project participants were very confident in their salvation.

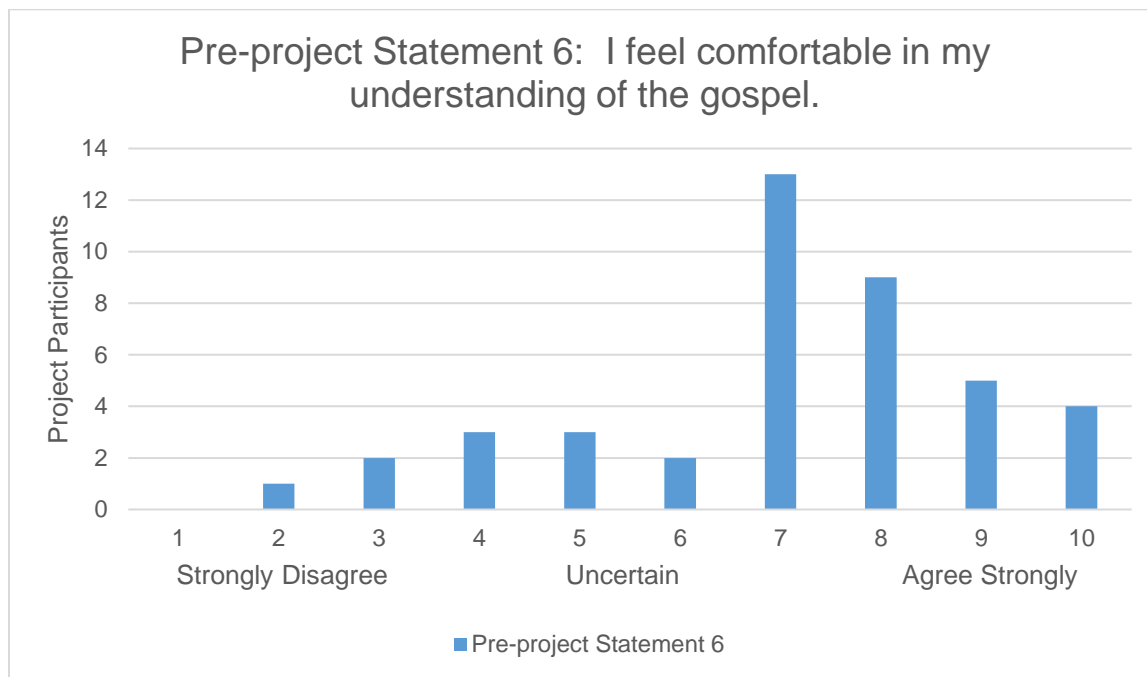
¹⁰³ Pre- and Post- Survey Statement: I am confident in my salvation.

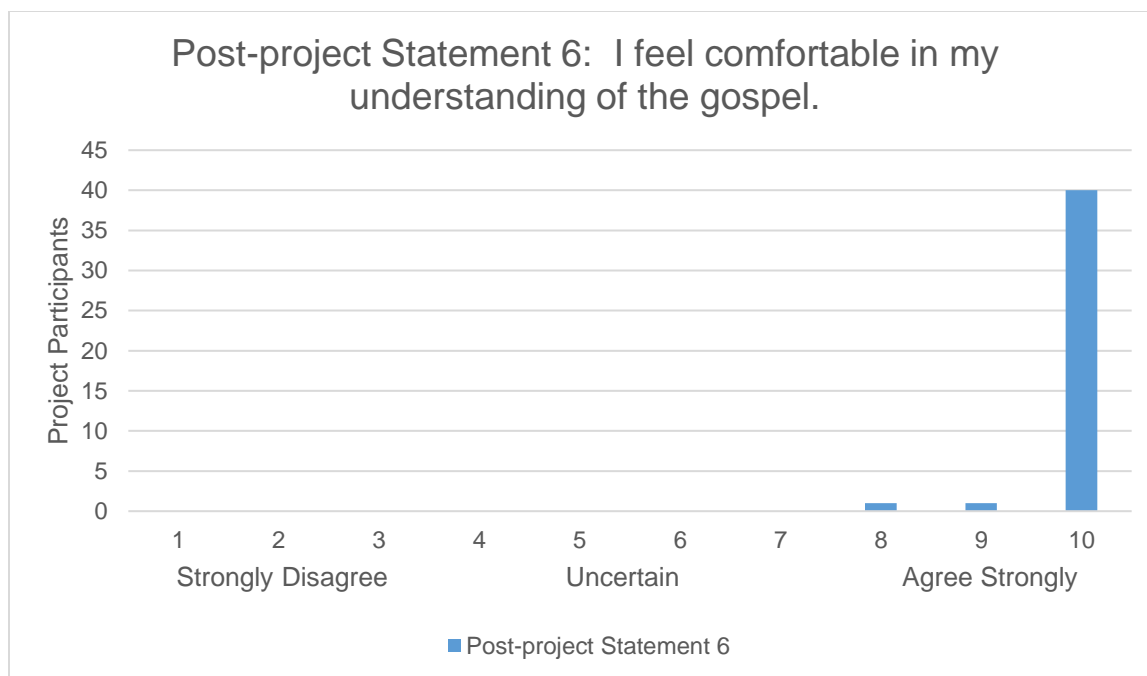


Pre- and post-survey statement 5 data reveal that the project participants felt more comfortable sharing their testimonies after completing the twelve-week Gospel Grocery Wagon project.¹⁰⁴ It

¹⁰⁴ Pre- and Post- Survey Statement 5: I am comfortable with sharing what the Lord has done for me.

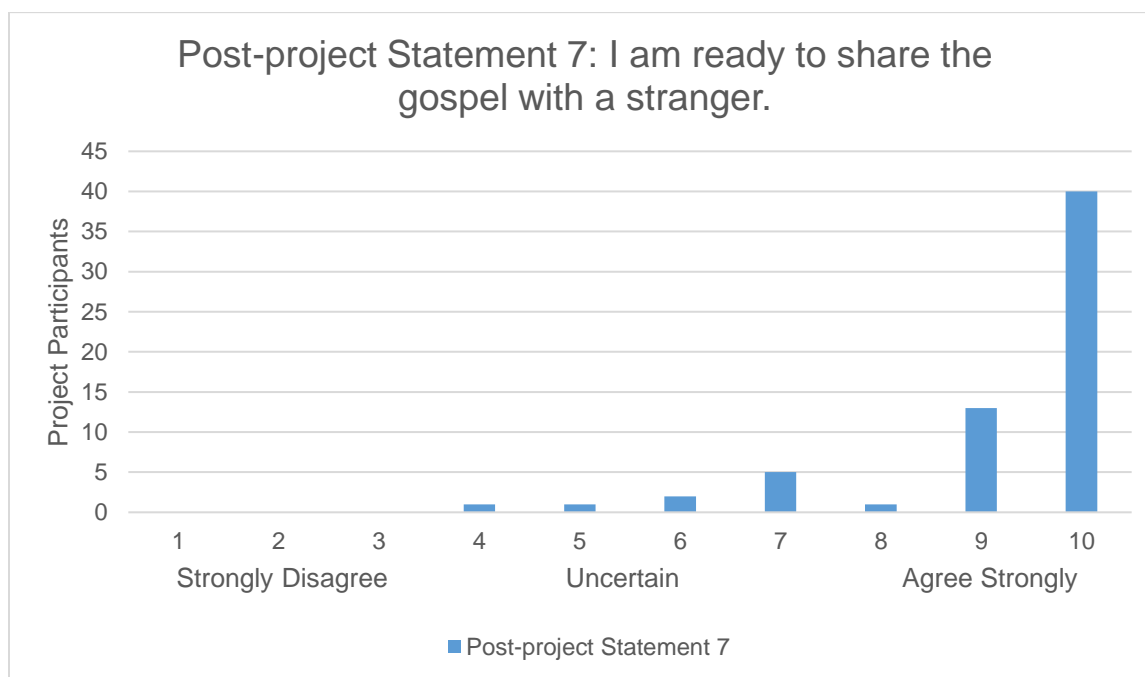
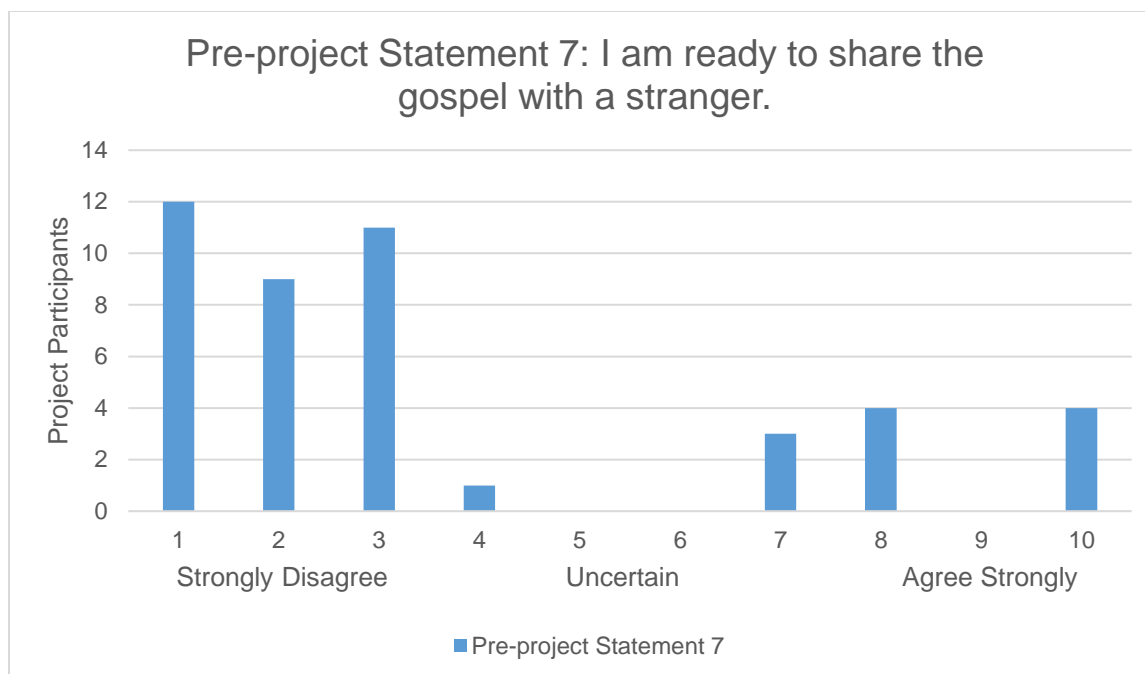
is the belief that the John 14:6 Evangelism Tool and the John 14:6 Front Porch Bible Studies had a great deal to do with making the project participants feel more at ease sharing their testimony. The training requires them to write out their testimony and be ready to share who they were before Christ as well as how the Lord intervened in their life as well as who they are now in Christ. This is all part of the John 14:6 gospel sharing process.





Similar to the results of statement 5, the data for statement 6 reveals a growth in the project participant's knowledge and understanding of the gospel.¹⁰⁵ This is truly a wonderful result of the overall project. The project participants, while serving the Lord and sharing the gospel, are also being discipled and growing in their faith. The Lord has used this project to add to Under Over Fellowship as an unattractual church and it has also led to a revival among the church as a whole. Especially in the spiritual lives of the project participants.

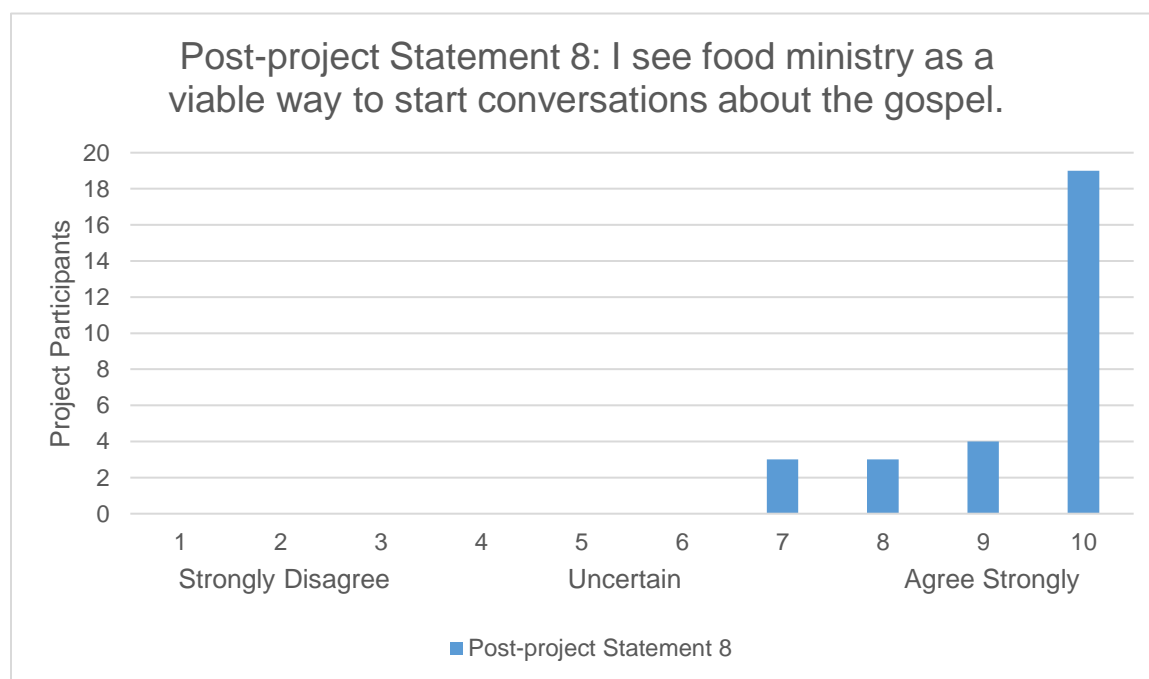
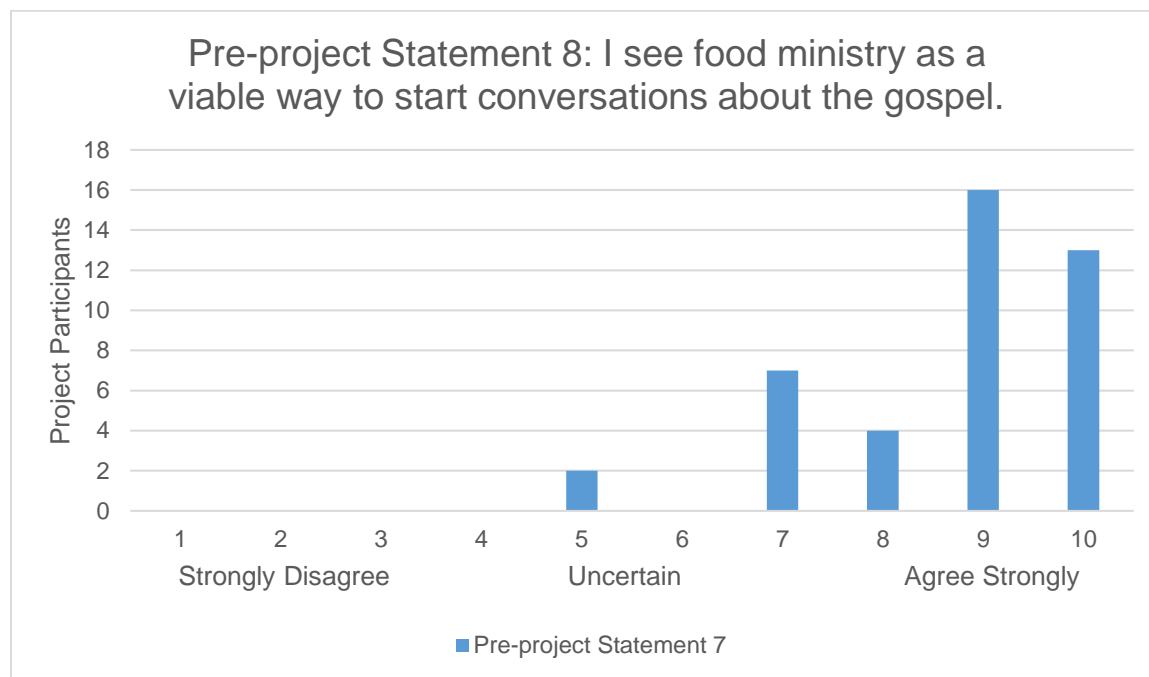
¹⁰⁵ Pre- and Post- Survey Statement 6: I feel comfortable in my understanding of the gospel.



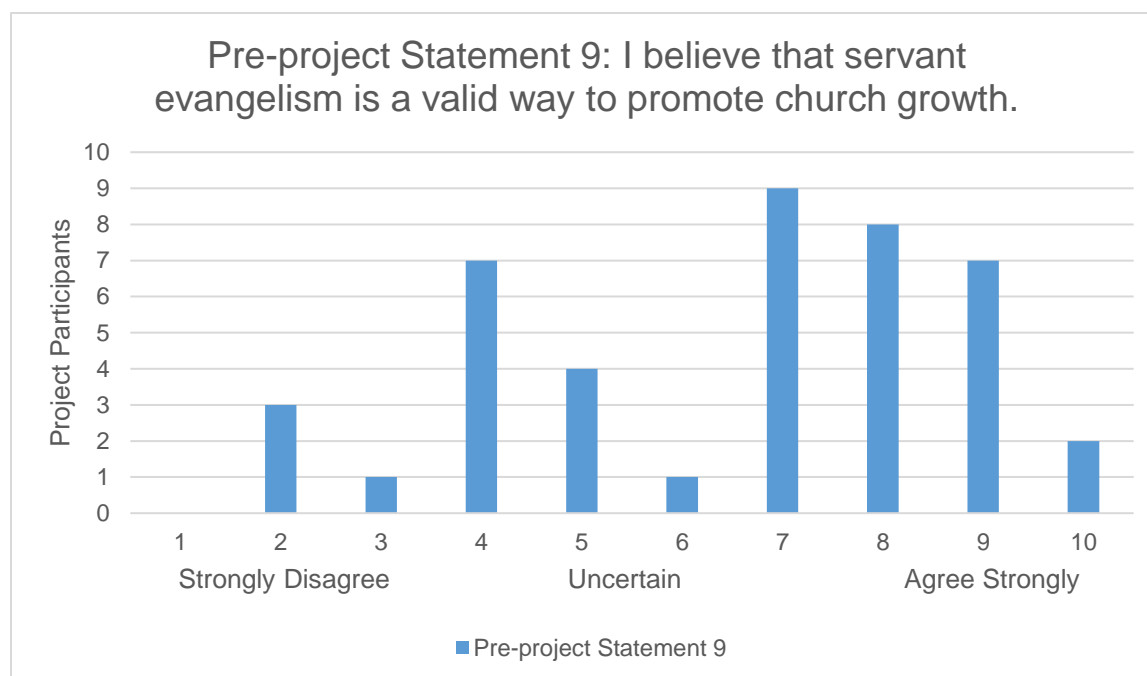
Pre- and post-survey statement 7 asked the project participants to rank their comfort level in sharing the gospel with a stranger.¹⁰⁶ It is believed that personal evangelism is vital in the

¹⁰⁶ Pre- and Post-Survey Statement 7: I am ready to share the gospel with a stranger.

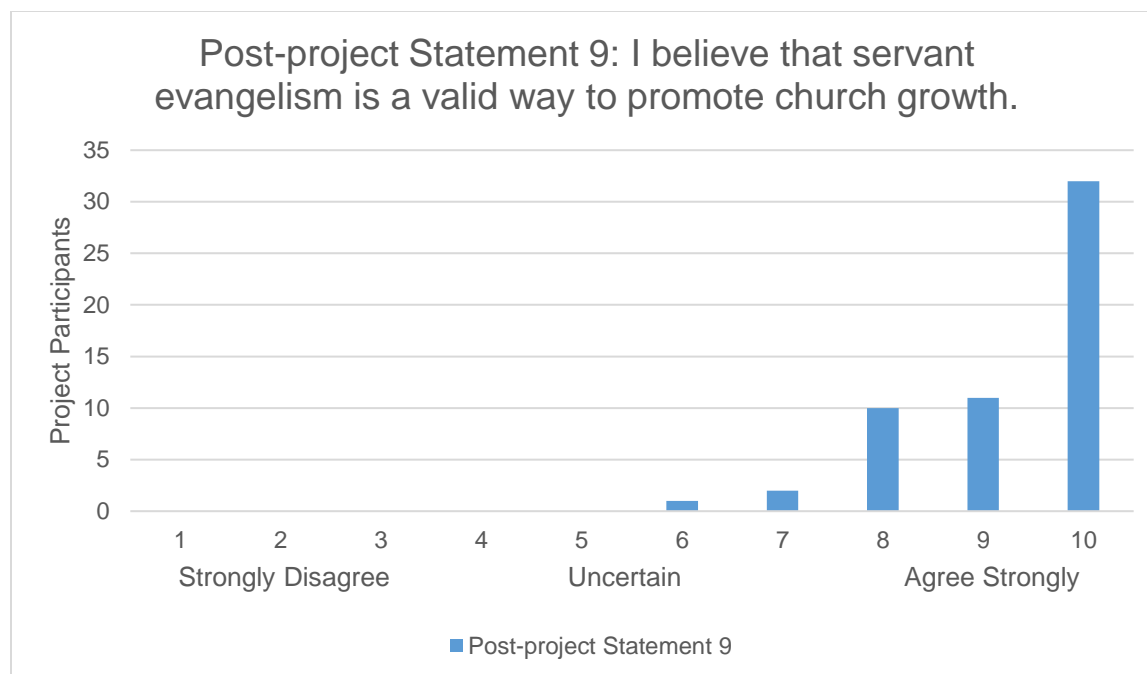
spiritual health of the believer and the local church as a whole. This data revealed in this portion of the survey is most encouraging. From a pastoral perspective, to see a 35.7% increase in project participants who would strongly agree that they are ready to share the gospel with a stranger in only 12 weeks is amazing.



The project participant's response to pre and post-survey statement 8 shows that they were receptive to the idea of a food-related ministry from the very beginning.¹⁰⁷ Some of the project participants had participated in food-related ministry at previous churches as well as at Under Over Fellowship. The church currently serves a hot meal on Wednesday nights, Sundays, and three days a week at noon. However, after participating in the Gospel grocery Wagon Hunger Relief/Servant Evangelism project the participants saw the worth of following Jesus' command in Mark 6 when He said, "you give them something to eat." (Mark 6:37b) The harvest speaks for itself concerning the value of partnering food with the gospel.

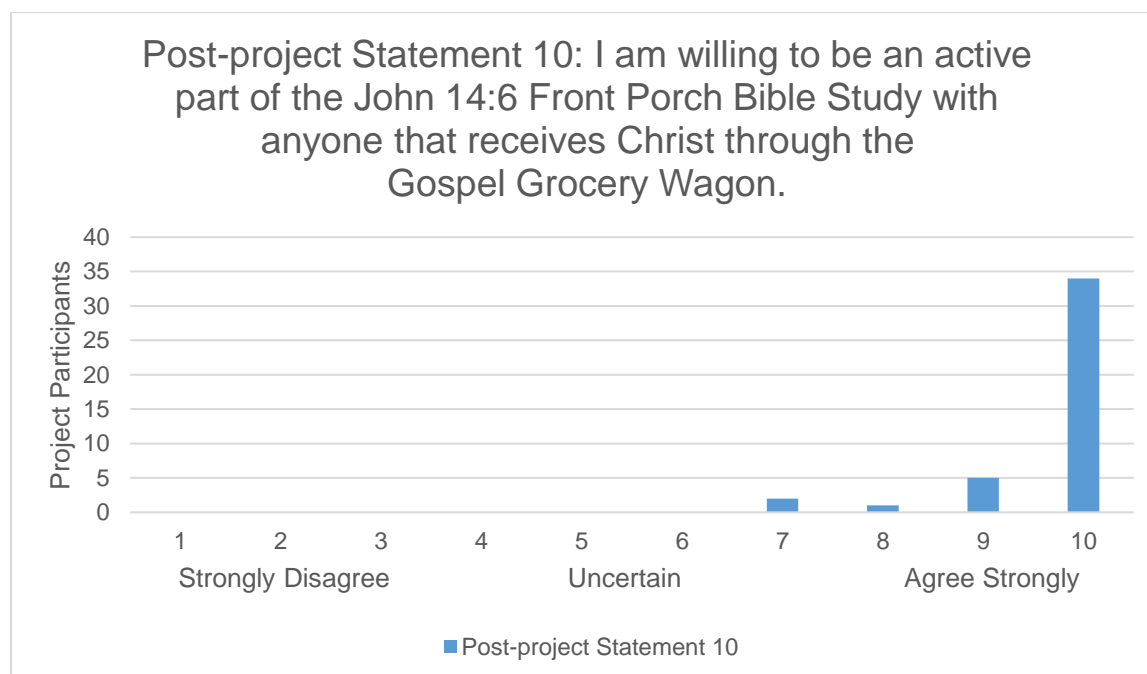
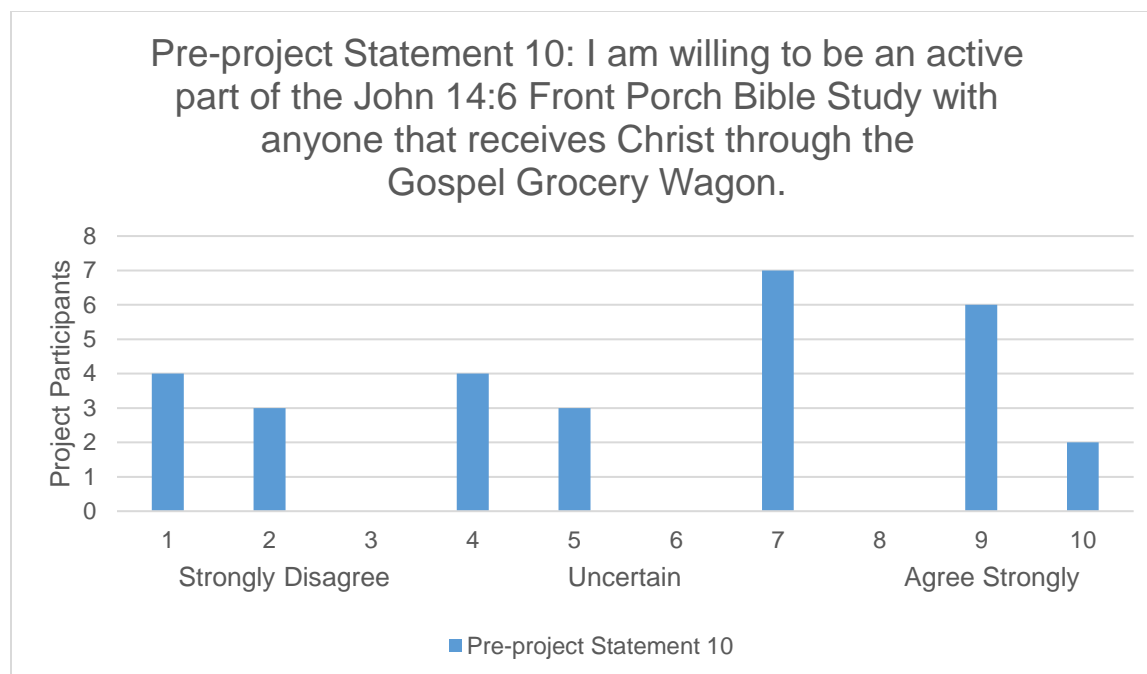


¹⁰⁷ Pre- and Post-Survey Statement 8: I see food ministry as a viable way to start conversations about the gospel.



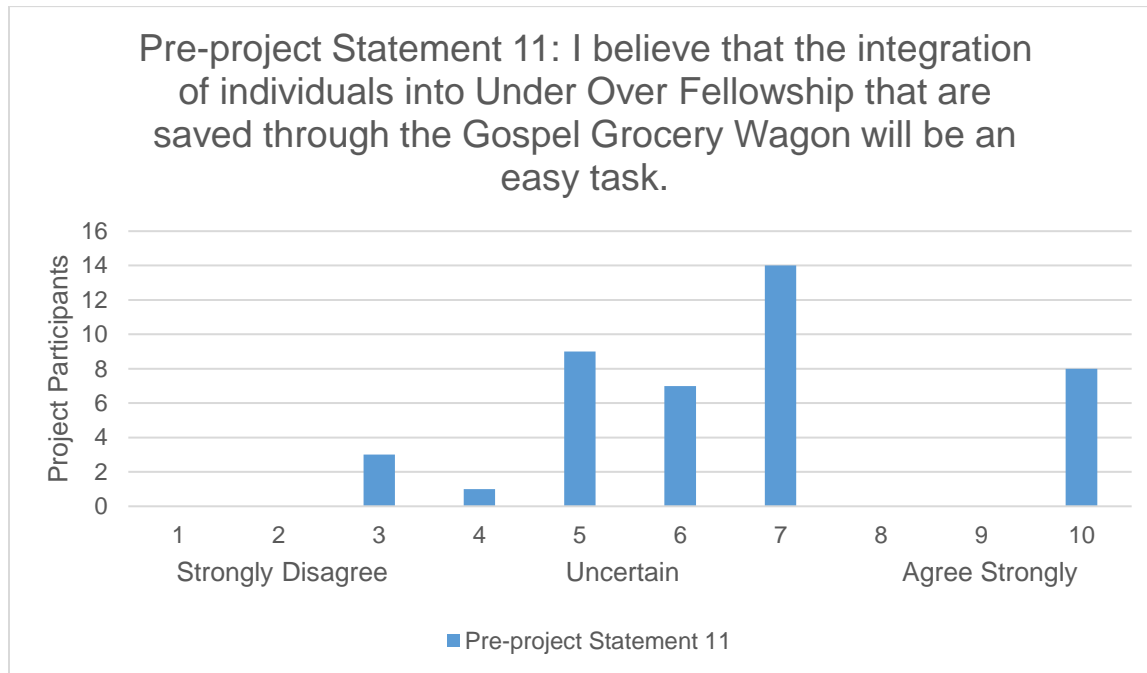
To the majority of the membership of Under Over Fellowship, servant evangelism is something very normal. This is due to the Sunday services at Heritage Place Park as well as at Under Over Mission weekly where the congregation is very familiar with the idea of showing God's love practically. The project participants have only experienced servant evangelism in very controlled environments. These controlled servant evangelism opportunities have not added a lot to the Under Over Fellowship congregation. However, the idea that servant evangelism could yield a measurable growth in the membership of Under Over Fellowship was only embraced as they participated through the process. The data revealed from pre and post-survey statement 9 shows a substantial change of attitude toward using servant evangelism to grow the church.¹⁰⁸

¹⁰⁸ Pre- and Post-Survey Statement 9: I believe that servant evangelism is a valid way to promote church growth.

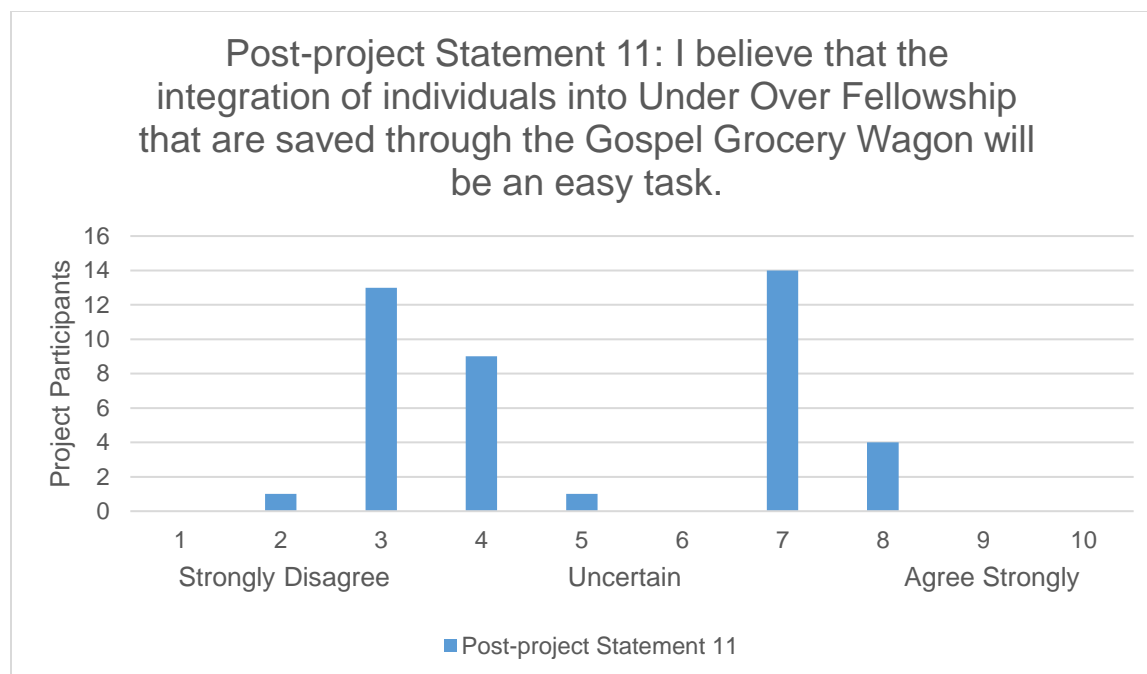


This project leader believes that the change in data that is seen between the pre and post-survey statement 10 over the 12-week process is greatly due to the shared content that the John

14:6 Bible Studies have with the John 14:6 Evangelism tool.¹⁰⁹ Also, the fact that the John 14:6 Bible Studies were delayed due to Texas' Covid-19 restrictions till week 6 allowed the project participants plenty of time to become very familiar with the material before having to teach it.



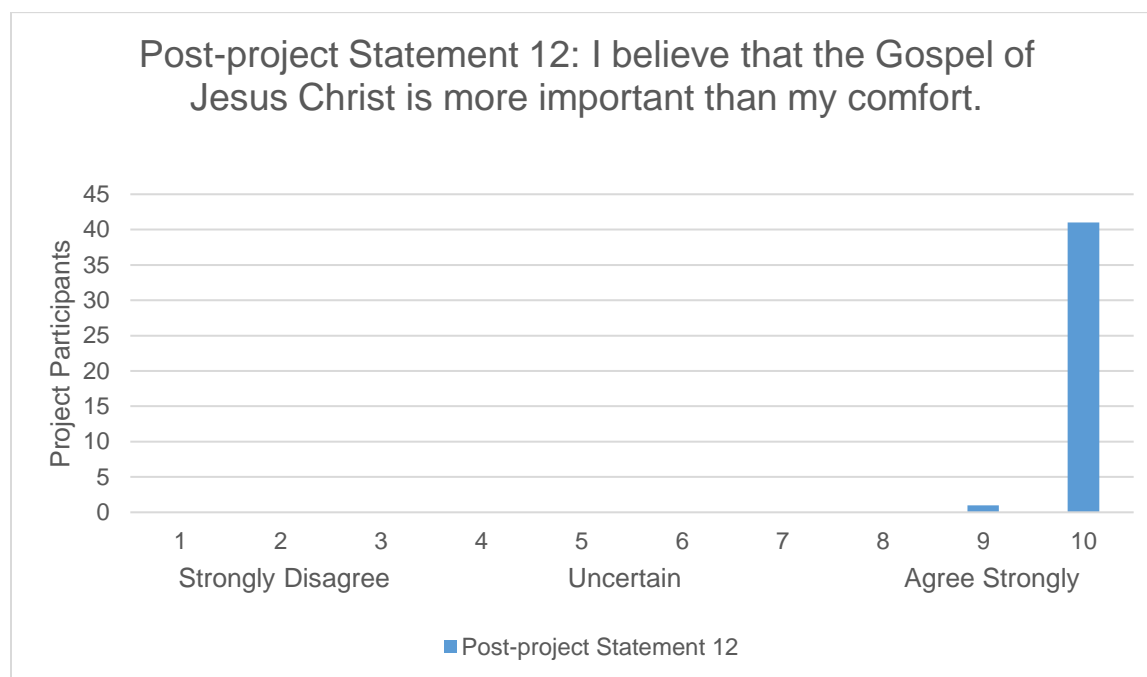
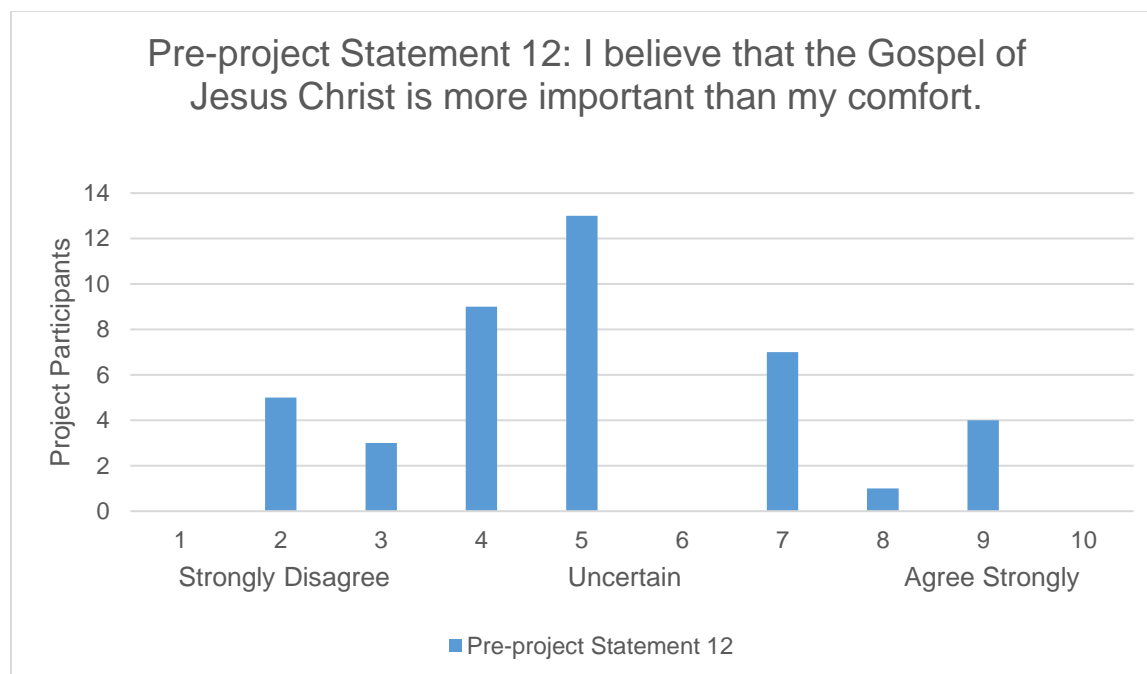
¹⁰⁹ Pre- and Post-Survey Statement 10: I am willing to be an active part of the John 14:6 Front Porch Bible Study with anyone that receives Christ through the Gospel Grocery Wagon.



Pre and post-survey statement 11 has generated very interesting data that yielded a very honest response from one of the project participants.¹¹⁰ It was expected that the majority of project participants would strongly agree with the post-survey statement that the integration of new believers into Under Over Fellowship through the GGW would be an easy task. However, a good portion of the project participants did not feel the same way. When this project leader asked one of the project participants privately why he did not think it was an easy task he responded, "None of this is easy. It is long hours of back-breaking kingdom work. It is worthy and worth it, but it is not easy."¹¹¹

¹¹⁰ Pre-and Post-Survey Statement 11: I believe that the integration of individuals into Under Over Fellowship that are saved through the Gospel Grocery Wagon will be an easy task.

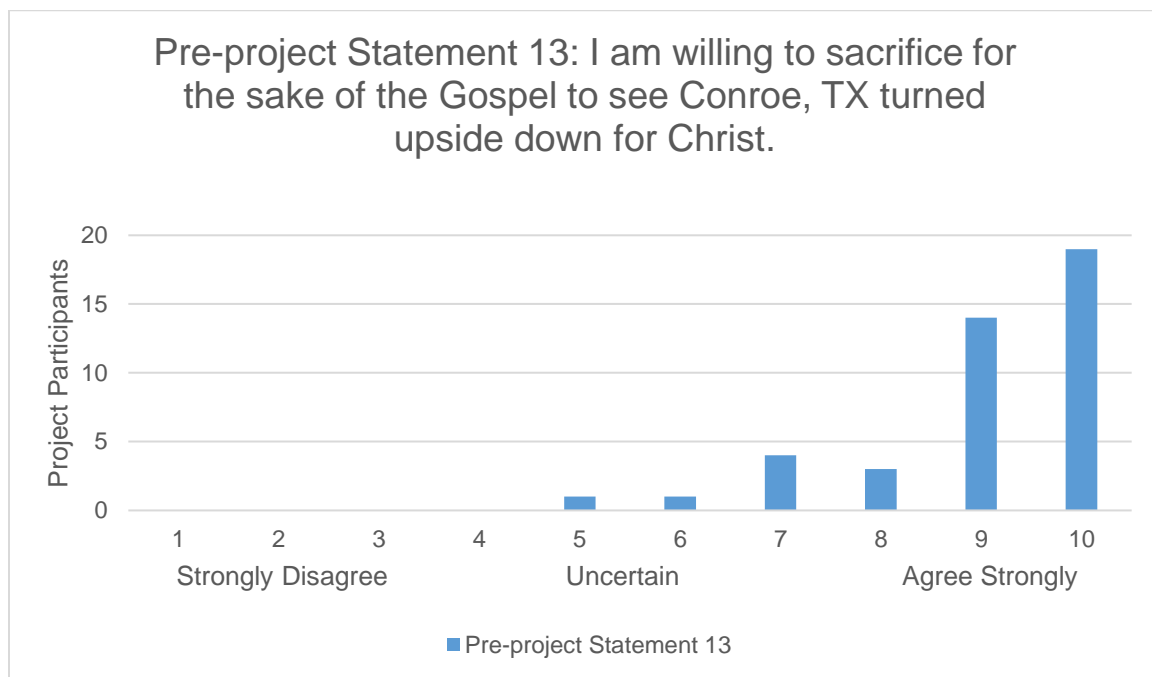
¹¹¹ This quote was recorded from a private conversation between this project leader and project participant G.J.

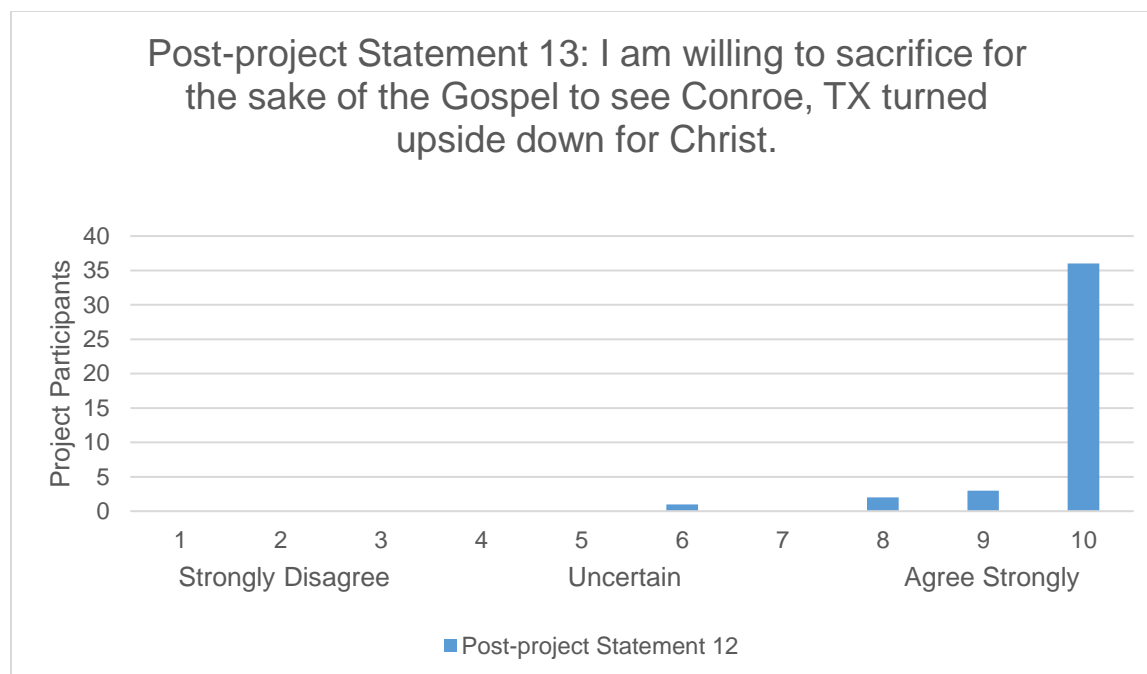


The difference between the pre-project statement 12 and the post-project statement 12 has yielded the most significant change in response throughout all of the 13 survey statements.¹¹² It

¹¹² Pre- and Post- Survey Statement 12: I believe that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is more important than my comfort.

was truly surprising to see the results of the pre-project survey statistics since Under Over Fellowship is not a comfortable church in which to be a member. The church has met outside on Sunday for the last 10 years in Texas and comfort is not one of the selling points of an unattractational church. The data after the project is truly refreshing to see as Under Over Fellowship looks forward to the next ten years.





This project leader cannot express in words how the Lord truly miraculously used the project participants over the 12 weeks of the Gospel Grocery Wagon Hunger Relief/Servant Evangelism project. The data from pre and post-survey statement 13 reflects that from the beginning to the end of the project participants were willing to sacrifice for the sake of the gospel.¹¹³ One area of data that is not reflected in the charts in this project is the servant's heart of the men and women who participated week in and week out in this project and who still "Get on the bus" every single week to partner the gospel with food. It is believed that the individual data as well as the overall data reveals a growth in the spiritual maturity of those who participated in the Gospel Grocery Wagon.

¹¹³ Pre- and Post-Survey Statement 13: I am willing to sacrifice for the sake of the Gospel to see Conroe, TX turned upside down for Christ.

Judging Success

Implementing a project of this size during a worldwide pandemic has not been easy. The Gospel Grocery Wagon Hunger Relief/Servant Evangelism leaders and the project participants were front-line responders to the hungry in the community. The day-to-day logistics of the project were difficult as was the exhausting schedule that was created due to the abundance of food that came to Under Over Fellowship due to other ministries closing due to the pandemic. However, this project leader believes that this project was and is a success. There were six criteria created to judge the validity of this project and these six criteria will now be used to determine if the Gospel Grocery Wagon Hunger Relief/Servant Evangelism project was a success. Is it a feasible method for church growth for the unattractual church called Under Over Fellowship?

The first question that was asked to prove if the project was a success is a question that is at the heart of every gospel-centered church. Was the gospel shared? It is believed that it is the responsibility of the individual believer to share Christ with their neighbor and that the local church is the vehicle in which that individual believer accomplishes the task. Although the GGW teams failed to record the actual number of gospel shares, it is believed to be close to 1,000. The number of gospel shares that is certain is 190. This number reflects the number of recorded professions of faith during the 12-week Gospel Grocery Wagon project. "And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation." (Mark 16:15) What a great joy to hear the gospel of hope during such uncertainty. The gospel was shared with anyone willing to listen and so the first criteria was met. The Gospel Grocery Wagon was and is a success!

The second criterion for success for the project was concerning the issue of prayer. Were the individuals and families in the neighborhoods, trailer parks, and apartment complexes prayed with and prayed for? The answer is a resounding yes. This project leader was witness to hundreds of prayers for healing, fear, uncertainty, and the future. But, the greatest moments were when the Lord allowed the GGW leadership and the project participants to be the answer to someone else's prayer. One instance was from an elderly woman in the Havenwood apartment complex. As the evangelists began to share with her why they were there and that the Gospel Grocery Wagon was there to deliver food in the name of Jesus, she began to weep. She then ran to her kitchen and brought back a potato. She told the project participants that her one potato was the only thing that she had to eat and that she had been praying to the Lord to provide food for her. With a knock at the door the Lord had provided, and the entire team rejoiced with her that day. The Gospel Grocery Wagon team prayed with anyone willing to be prayed for and so the second criteria was met. The Gospel Grocery Wagon was and is a success!

The next criteria that are a determining factor for success for the Gospel Grocery Wagon Hunger Relief/Servant Evangelism project have to do with professions of faith in Christ. Was there even one person that called upon the name of Jesus, repented, and was saved? Yes! By the end of the 12-week program, the project participants had witnessed 190 individuals make professions of faith in Christ. This project leader was witness to one of the most amazing times of ministry ever experienced. Entire families accepting Christ, husbands and wives, siblings, and mothers and daughters making professions of faith together. "Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents." (Luke 15:10) The Gospel Grocery Wagon team, and all of Under Over Fellowship, join the angels in their rejoicing. The Gospel

was shared and 190 individuals responded and so the third criteria were met. The Gospel Grocery Wagon was and is a success!

The fourth criteria that were created determined if the validity of the project was based on what Jesus said in the feeding of the 5,000 when he commanded the disciples to take responsibility to feed the people that had been entrusted to them that day. Were the hungry fed in the name of Christ? The answer is yes. During the 12-week Gospel Grocery Wagon project, approximately 230,000 lbs. of food was delivered to thousands of homes within the 16 different predetermined neighborhoods, trailer parks, and apartment complexes. As a matter of fact, from April till December the Gospel Grocery Wagon delivered 850,000 lbs of food into the community in the name of Christ and so the fourth criteria were met. This data is based on records from Keep Us Fed and the Montgomery County Food Bank. The Gospel Grocery Was and is a success!

As exciting as it was for this project leader to see many come to know Christ through the course of this project, it was just as exciting to see the transformation that occurred in the lives of the project participants. It is believed that the data from the pre and post-project surveys support the notion that the saints of Under Over Fellowship were strengthened through the 12- weeks. The strengthening of the faith of the church during the bulk of the pandemic has prepared the church for what the Lord has for Under Over Fellowship next. The church was strengthened and so the fifth criteria were met. The Gospel Grocery Wagon was and is a success.

The data for the final criteria for success is the qualifier for this project's thesis statement. The thesis statement suggests that the partnership of hunger relief and servant evangelism connected with a discipleship plan will provide a valid church growth methodology for the unattractual church called Under Over Fellowship. The results of the Gospel Grocery Wagon's

12-week project yielded 3 new Under Over Fellowship church members and seven regular attendees from the predetermined neighborhoods, trailer parks, and apartment complexes. The majority of those regular attendees have joined under Under Over since the conclusion of the project. Some might look at the data and say that 12-weeks of working long hot days in the Texas summer heat delivering 230,000lbs of food for 3 new church members and 7 new attendees is not a very good return for the investment. Church growth experts might argue that there are easier ways to add to the local church. This project leader would agree that there are easier methods for the attractional or traditional church. However, those methods do not work for the unattractional church. Under Over Fellowship grew in attendance 16% in 12-weeks during a global pandemic, and that 16% remains a year after the conclusion of the project. So, the final criteria were met and the Gospel Grocery Wagon Hunger Relief/Servant Evangelism project was and is a success!

Chapter 5

Conclusion

The last year and a half of this project leader's ministerial career have been the greatest and most rewarding time personally. It also has been the most difficult. Having to have a constantly flexible schedule that is completely dependent upon the amount and type of food donations that come in plus being in a position that requires constant communication with volunteers to help disseminate that food has proved challenging. The manpower needed to load and unload the sheer tonnage of food that is seen from day to day requires volunteers to also be available at a moment's notice. Along with the coordination of volunteers, there was always the concern that as mentioned in the literature review that there be more hurting in delivering food into the community than helping. Robert Lupton speaks to this in his book *Toxic Charity*. He writes, "...giving our resources to the poor as often as (or even more often than) it helps..."¹¹⁴ These types of results were not seen through the GGW. The Gospel Grocery Wagon project was strategically entering certain neighborhoods, trailer parks, and apartment complexes with a 3 to 4-week rotation. This was purposely done so that the recipients would not become dependant upon Under Over Fellowship for the day-to-day sustenance. The food was intended to be a short-term blessing, not a long-term option. The second reason I believe that the process that the GGW followed was not hurtful was that it was partnered with the gospel. The gospel was the main purpose of the food itself. The food was only to be a key that would open the door for a spiritual conversation.

¹¹⁴ Lupton, *Toxic Charity: How Churches and Charities Hurt Those They Help, and How to Reverse it.*, 36.

The hope was and is to integrate these individuals and families into the church and to see them begin to serve their neighbors by getting on the bus. Pastor Bob Roberts of Dallas would agree that the engagement of the local church with its surrounding community is healthy for both the church and the community. He writes, "What we need is not a new definition of "church," but a recovery of the definition that Jesus gave us. The church is simply his followers living out their faith: disciples engaged in society. "¹¹⁵ It is believed that is exactly what the Gospel Grocery wagon has done for Under Over Fellowship as well as other churches. The Lord has truly answered prayers by revealing through the Gospel Grocery Wagon Hunger Relief/Servant Evangelism project how to transform Under Over Fellowship into a disciple-making church. Engaging the project participants, who are also members of UOF, in evangelism as well as calling on them to lead the John 14:6 Front Porch Bible Studies has opened the door for the greatest amount of personal growth in the church since the beginning of UOF in 2011. As mentioned in the Literature Review, Galanos believes that one of the toughest things for the local church to do is to engage the lost in its community. He writes, "Going out is a difficult step for most Christians...We're used to going to church, going home, and going back again next weekend...We're used to the holy huddle...But lost people won't be reached that way. We've got to break out of our Christian bubble and take seriously Jesus' command to "go and make disciples of all nations.""¹¹⁶ Not only is it believed by those who participated in the GGW project that Under Over Fellowship has and is breaking out of the so-called "Christian bubble"¹¹⁷ but it is believed that the sister churches that are working with UOF are breaking out as well.

¹¹⁵ Roberts, *Real-Time Connections: Linking Your Job to God's Global Work*, 153.

¹¹⁶ Galanos, *From Megachurch to Multiplication*, 85

¹¹⁷ Ibid

This project leader agrees with Reid, Wheeler, Sjogren, and Early concerning the user-friendly aspect of servant evangelism for the everyday Christian. The Gospel Grocery Wagon was referred to by Pastor Greg Johnson of Restoration Woodforest as "low hanging fruit."¹¹⁸ He sees the GGW as a very easy way for anyone no matter what their level of spiritual maturity to plug in and be part of the Great Commission. Sjogren writes, "We need to offer plenty of easy, entry-level projects for the bulk of believers...The radicals thrive on the equivalent of a seven-foot-high jump. On the other hand, we also need to offer a six-inch for all those basic cowards who love Jesus."¹¹⁹ Since the close of the official project in the summer of 2020 the Gospel Grocery Wagon has hosted a myriad of volunteers ranging from young to old. The youngest was a 3-year-old little girl and her mom and dad. This family has served multiple times on the GGW as runners. The oldest team members to serve were a husband and wife in their 80s who regularly come a join "Mabel" as an evangelist team. They have a desire to share Jesus with as many people as they can before they meet Him face to face. For these individuals, missions are not just something that good Baptists give money to at Easter and Christmas. For the project participants, as well as every GGW volunteer that has heard the call to "Get on the bus!" that responded by taking action, missions have become very real. These men and women have engaged themselves in heeding the call of Christ to be witnesses in Jerusalem. Christopherson wrote, "The goal of the church isn't to gather the church into a sacred assembly but to equip to release into the sacred Kingdom mission."¹²⁰

¹¹⁸ Greg Johnson pastors a local church called Restoration Woodforest in the Conroe area. His church is a new partner with Under Over Fellowship's Gospel Grocery Wagon. This quote was taken from a conversation that he and this project leader has in August of 2021.

¹¹⁹ Sjogren, *Conspiracy of Kindness: A Unique Approach to Sharing the Love of Jesus*, 165.

¹²⁰ Christopherson, *Kingdom First: Starting Churches That Shape Movements*, 180.

The Gospel Grocery Wagon Hunger Relief/Servant Evangelism project has transformed Under Over Fellowship so profoundly that the congregation will never be the same. The Lord has used this project to direct the vision of UOF and has emboldened them to be prepared to share the Gospel more comfortably with strangers. Not only has the GGW project proven itself as a viable method for adding to the unattractual church it also has become a foundation for everything that Under Over Fellowship does as a New Testament church. The 1998 NABI Transit Bus has become a method for church growth, a classroom for discipleship, and a beacon of hope in the local community.

The Work Continues

The Gospel Grocery Wagon has gone out almost every week to deliver food into the local community and share the hope of Christ since this project began. The 16 predetermined neighborhoods, trailer parks, and apartment complexes have expanded to over 25 different areas that the Gospel Grocery Wagon travels to throughout the City of Conroe. Word of mouth from residents of the places that the GGW serves has led to many phone calls of people seeking to have their community added to the list of places in which "Mabel" delivers. The visibility of the Gospel Grocery Wagon has also caused an uptick in the number of people seeking help with food directly from the church itself. These individuals come to our physical location for groceries where the Gospel is ready to be shared.

From March of 2020 to December of 2020 the Gospel Grocery Wagon delivered approximately 850,000 lbs. of food and is on track in 2021 to surpass that amount. The idea of partnering food with servant evangelism to grow the local church has been shared with other local churches in the area. This project leader would agree with what Elmer writes, "As long as

the members of the church are unable to work together, the world is safe from the church's influence."¹²¹

New Partners

One of the greatest results outside the professions of faith and the adding of productive members to the unattractual church is the partnerships that have grown with sister churches. Being part of a group of like-minded bodies of Christ is very refreshing and it truly has changed the local communities that make up these churches. The Fellowship Church in Willis, TX is lead by pastor Scott Young and his congregation is one of the new partnerships that has developed. Pastor Scott heard about what we were doing as a church and wanted his church to do the same. His method of food delivery is a little different than Under Over Fellowship but it is still very effective. The Fellowship Church has a refrigerated trailer that they use to take food into the neighborhoods surrounding their church property as well as implementing a drive-in food delivery at the church on Sunday mornings. The Sunday crowd is encouraged to park their cars and join in Sunday worship. Pastor Scott has added four families to his church through this process in the last year and he has shared with the Gospel Grocery Wagon team that it has transformed his congregation. Pastor Scott has shared a story about a man who was very skeptical of a pastor coming to his door. Scott continued weekly to share the hope of Christ and food from the church and after four weeks of interaction, the man received Christ and is now attending The Fellowship Church with his family. It should be noted that The Fellowship Church is not an unattractual church in any way. The feel of the church is very contemporary in its

¹²¹ Duane Elmer, *Cross-Cultural Servanthood: Serving the World in Christlike Humility* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2006), 77 <https://read.amazon.com/?asin=B001IDYHH0&language=en-US>.

worship and facilities and the majority of the congregation before the implementation of the food ministry was made up of middle/upper-class anglo believers.

Pastor Genaro Torres has also adopted the GGW method for growing his congregation. Iglesia Bautista Mision de Conroe accompanies Under Over Fellowship out into the field every week, and this Spanish congregation has also seen the rewards of partnering food with the gospel. This church currently has numerous Front Porch Bible Studies that are ongoing as well as adding many individuals and families to their congregation. This partnership has become invaluable to Under Over Fellowship as it strives to reach the Jerusalem that the Lord has entrusted to the church. Pastor Genaro and the Spanish-speaking evangelist that is a part of the church that he pastors broaden the impact that the Gospel Grocery Wagon has within the community. There are some weeks where the GGW targets completely Hispanic neighborhoods for food delivery. Every evangelist team is made up of one or two Spanish-speaking and one English-speaking evangelist. This way, the gospel may be preached without any language barriers. Iglesia Bautista Mision de Conroe is a very traditional Baptist church with traditional hymn style worship and liturgical processes for their congregational services. This very traditional church understands and has adopted GGW methodology for its weekly evangelistic outreach to the local community.

Another partner that has emerged over the last year is pastor Fred Omoruyi who leads a Nigerian congregation in the northern part of Houston. His church, Greater Glory International Church, picks up food from Under Over Fellowship every Saturday and partners the food with the gospel every Sunday after church. Greater Glory International Church is a non-denominational multi-ethnic church that has a large Nigerian population. Every week the church's entire facility transforms into a free grocery store following his Sunday Worship

service. Pastor Fred serves in a once-thriving urban area in North Houston formerly filled with shopping malls and small family neighborhoods that have since succumbed to decades of rising crime, the effects of the recession, and an influx of HUD housing. The people in Pastor Fred's Jerusalem are spiritually and physically starving. The food that he receives and shares with those that are hurting has transformed his church into a beacon of hope within the area.

The Gospel Grocery Wagon Hunger Relief/Servant Evangelism project initiated conversations with Montgomery County's largest church. The Woodlands Church is a multi-site church with 4 campuses and approximately 18,000 members in weekly attendance. The Woodlands Church Missions Pastor Bobby Maynard Has reached out to the Gospel Grocery Wagon leadership to help implement the GGW process within The Woodlands Church. The pastoral leadership of the church has a desire to reach its local community for Christ through personal evangelism and Pastor Bobby believes that the unattractual church Under Over Fellowship could lead the attractational mega-church The Woodlands Church to do exactly that. Plans for the first outing together are set for October 16, 2021.

It is apparent that as the research is applied across formats and church models that the process is solid and that partnering food and gospel together is a valid way to reach individuals and families for Christ as well as a healthy way to add to the church. This process has not only been able to add to the existing church but has also led to the planting of a completely new church.

One unintentional result of the Gospel Grocery Wagon's continuing ministry is the possibility of planting a church as a direct result of partnering food with the gospel. Shortly after the conclusion of the official Gospel Grocery Wagon Hunger Relief/Servant Evangelism project, the GGW traveled into a Hispanic neighborhood in Willis, TX with pastor Scott from the

Fellowship Church. The response that we received within the neighborhood was amazing with 35 professions of faith and a desire from these individuals to attend church. Pastor Scott's congregation, although now multi-ethnic, is only an English-speaking congregation. So together we began looking at the options of planting a Hispanic Baptist church in the area. This process is still ongoing and prayerfully the work will begin very soon.

The Gospel Grocery Wagon As A Classroom

It is evident over the last year and a half of the Gospel Grocery Wagon being in action as it reached into the local communities for Christ that the bus itself is not only a solid methodology for sharing the hope of Christ but it is also a great classroom for teaching how to share that hope. The unfortunate reality is that a large portion of the American church has never shared the Gospel. Over the last year and a half, some Senior Pastors of large local churches have joined on a GGW food run and have become anxiety-filled when the idea of cold-call evangelism is introduced. However, the partnering of food with the gospel is so easy that the Lord drives that anxiety and fear away when that homeowner accepts the food that is offered. It is believed that what happens weekly on and through the Gospel Grocery Wagon creates the opportunity for the believer to exemplify what the Apostle Paul was referring to when he wrote the church in Philippi concerning following Jesus' example of being a servant.¹²² "Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself

¹²²Dave Early and David Wheeler, *Evangelism is...: How to Share Jesus with Passion and Confidence* (Nashville, TN: B & H Publishing, 2006), 152, <https://read.amazon.com/?asin=B003U6Y3U4&language=en-US>.

by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.” (Philippians 2:5-9) The Gospel Grocery Wagon has become a training method for local pastors and church planters to plug their congregations into and to teach them how to share the gospel. The GGW team offers to train in the John 14:6 Evangelism tool, but most pastors like to teach people a method that is comfortable to them. It has truly been amazing to see how the Lord has opened the door not only to the lost but also the local church member that wants to learn to share Christ. This idea of the GGW being a classroom has expanded to this project leader being asked to be a part of an Evangelism conference as a breakout session. The classroom will be on-the-job training as “Mabel” will take out groups into the neighborhood to partner food with the verbal gospel.

Saturday Grocery Giveaway

In the Gospel of Matthew, the Lord Jesus said as he shared the parable of the talents, “And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me two talents; here, I have made two talents more.’”²³ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’” (Matthew 25:22-23) The Lord has entrusted Under Over Fellowship with a couple of talents and prayerfully the GGW leadership, the project participants, and the church as a whole have been faithful with what was given. Now the Lord has given Under Over Fellowship so much more. The amount of food that the church receives has continually grown since the official end of the Gospel Grocery Wagon Hunger Relief/Servant Evangelism project. Under Over Fellowship now receives between 10,000 lbs. and 15,000 lbs. every week on average, however, some weeks yield 20,000 lbs. or more. This abundance has created another opportunity for UOF to partner food and gospel together through our Saturday morning grocery giveaway. Every Saturday the Under Over Fellowship sanctuary is turned into a free grocery store from

9:30 a.m. till 11:00 a.m. This opportunity to be the hands, feet, and voice of Jesus opens the door for Under Over Fellowship and Iglesia Bautista Mision de Conroe to minister to approximately 75 families. The grocery store setup was more challenging to engage the recipients with the gospel since they are walking through the sanctuary of the church and “shopping” like in a grocery store. Even with all of the possible roadblocks that this format may have there have recently been 3 professions of faith. Two of these were Spanish-speaking families that have been integrated into Iglesia Bautista Mision de Conroe. The third salvation was a young single English-speaking mother who just recently moved to the area. She has never been a part of a local church and the ladies at Under Over Fellowship have taken over the responsibility of ministering to her. Prayerfully, a John 14:6 Front Porch Bible Study will begin shortly.

Through the Gospel Grocery Wagon going out into the neighborhoods, trailer parks, apartment complexes as well as the Saturday Grocery Giveaway many have come to know Christ as Savior and been fed in the name of Jesus. One amazing thing that has occurred is that Under Over Fellowship has become a light in the darkness much like a lighthouse that shines its light of warning and hope to those adrift in the uncertain waters of life.

Building Community Relationships

Our community leaders and police department have come to view the church as a valued source of help when encountering those struggling with homelessness or mental health issues. Many weeks find police officers and constables reaching out for physical help for families in need, knowing that Under Over Fellowship might not have the perfect answer, but that it will do its best to meet whatever need that the Lord brings to its doors. Under Over Fellowship is less community center and more of a center of the community.

In comparison to other churches that participate in food ministries that include on-site food pantries, this project leader believes that a greater difference can be made by taking the food into the actual community and into the dark places rather than waiting for the dark places to come to the church for help. While food pantries and drive-thru food operations are adequate to meet the needs of physical discomfort, they miss out on the opportunities to be a real difference in sharing the gospel. Countless benefits have arisen from taking the Gospel Grocery Wagon into the streets of Conroe, Texas that would never have happened had the church decided to sit still. Deep, lasting relationships with sister churches that are now working together corporately as one church has strengthened our local body of believers and broken down cultural walls. The church is not meant to be a stagnant, concentrated place of hope. It's meant to be a living, spreading, moving light that takes its hope into the darkest of places and shines the dark away. This project has made it clear that a church that isn't moving and isn't addressing the needs of the community is not one in which Under Over Fellowship wants to model itself.

Churches that are surrounded by affluent areas that may not see a desperate need from the hungry may have difficulty following the model of church growth that Under Over Fellowship has had success. This does not mean that there are no needs within those communities. Under Over Fellowship decided to take what it had and use it to partner with the gospel for its neighbors. Affluent areas may need to adjust what it is they choose to partner with the gospel to reach out to people.

Going Global

The willingness of Under Over Fellowship to continue serving the community during a global pandemic has continued to bring blessing upon blessing. One of our greatest blessings surprisingly comes from a secular relationship the church has developed with the Montgomery County Food Bank. The deep partnership between the church and a federally funded organization may seem unusual, but its union has led to a growth in the vision of carrying the gospel further outside the borders of Montgomery County and into the hands of people worldwide.

A goal of Under Over Fellowship, along with the organizations that provide the food given out, is to stop unnecessary waste and to get food that may only have a short lifespan into the hands of those in need before it goes bad. Many times there have been pallets of partially spoiled produce delivered to the church. Culling moldy strawberries from hundreds of cases of strawberries to save the remaining fruit is not only time-consuming and labor-intensive but doesn't allow enough time to get the remaining strawberries to families before they too are ruined. This project leader believes a solution has been found to save even more of the food that comes to the doors of the church and to help the food bank manage large shipments of produce from spoiling. This solution will also allow the salvaged food to get to more people around the globe.

The original vision of the Gospel Grocery Wagon has expanded into the Gospel Grocery Wagon Worldwide. With the addition of 5 new freeze dryers and the hopes of more on the way, the food ministry has grown into a full-fledged mission of reducing all food bank food waste. Removing all moisture content from food results in a freeze-dried product that is shelf-stable for 20+ years, lighter to ship, retains 97% of its nutritional value, and needs only water to be

reconstituted. The idea of the freeze dryers comes at a time when countries around the world are experiencing food shortages from the effects of the pandemic. The Gospel Grocery Wagon Worldwide has been able to use its relationship with the food bank to see this vision come to fruition. Rigid regulations that accompany food bank deliveries, such as making sure the food stays within the boundaries of Montgomery County, have been swept aside in the joint desire to save as much food as possible from spoilage. This project leader believes that it is only because of the deep trusting relationship between Under Over Fellowship and the food bank that these rules have been eased. Excess produce from the food bank will now come to Under Over Fellowship where volunteers will cull damaged product, slice the food, freeze-dry it, and then package the freeze-dried product into mylar bags with oxygen absorbers. This food will be stored in a cool, dry location until it is ready to be shipped out globally via door-to-door shipping directly to missionaries or piggybacked in shipping containers already destined for current mission points.

New relationships with Gospel-driven organizations will answer the call of sending physical and spiritual nourishment into every corner of the world. The Brazilian Baptists Association and Operation Go Quickly will be two of the first organizations to benefit from the food reclaimed from the new freeze-drying operation found on Under Over Fellowship's campus. The Brazilian Baptists operate a network of over 1,000 Pepe centers that exist to provide the Gospel, hot meals, and education to children in a community center setting within the doors of local churches in third world countries. Operation Go Quickly works with the large, underserved disabled community in Haiti and several other countries around the world. We are honored and excited to partner with such amazing groups to bring Jesus to the hungry by partnering food with the gospel.

Final Words

The past few months in this project leader's life have led to the witness of wonderful blessings such as the incredible gifting of Mabel for the grocery delivery project and the miraculous increase in food that answered the needs of so many. The perfect timing of this project starting at the beginning of an unexpected global pandemic is just another way that the hand of God has been felt through this experience. Although the requirements of this project will soon come to an end, the work that has been started through its efforts will continue throughout the life of Under Over Fellowship and this project leader. The ever-growing and adapting food ministry of Under Over Fellowship has changed the way this project leader's congregation sees the poor, sees the lost, and understands their responsibility to be the ones "who give them something to eat."

Other churches or believers may hear about this specific work being accomplished through the Gospel Grocery Wagon Hunger Relief / Servant Evangelism Project and may think that their church is not equipped for such work because they are too small, lack funds or the need in the community is different. This project leader rejects those ideas as excuses, knowing that when answering a call to further the gospel as well as meeting a physical need, Jesus is in the midst of it. The bank account and donation history of Under Over Fellowship will prove that what has been accomplished throughout this project was not accomplished by man, but by the continual provision of the God who said, "For every beast of the forest is mine, the cattle on a thousand hills." (Psalm 50:10) Churches do not have to start where Under Over Fellowship started or with the same intent to operate a city bus. Taking inventory of skills, talents, resources, and strengths among their membership and then harnessing those things with a desire to get into the community with the sole purpose of leading the lost to Christ will result in positive

interactions. Will everyone they encounter be saved? No, but sometimes it isn't just about the person hearing the gospel as the project participants of the Under Over Fellowship food ministry can attest. Sometimes it's simply about being obedient to the calling, willing to share your gifts and testimony, and being faithful to the call of the Great Commission even in the face of great rejection. The responsibility to obey is in the believer's hands while the results are in His. This project leader prays passionately that other churches across the country begin to use casseroles to reach neighbors, a diaper bank to reach families with new babies, or Bible clubs to reach out to the elderly and homebound in their communities. Tutoring programs, ESL classes, free car repair programs, or teams willing to go out and do small repairs on homes for widows and single moms can change the course of someone's life. Those are just ways to open the door so that new relationships can be formed to teach of His sacrificial love on the cross, to teach of repentance, and to teach of eternal choices. Servant evangelism will never be limited to food and the sharing of the gospel will never be limited only to pastors. Regardless of the type of ministry in which a church chooses to invest, there is only one thing to do and that's to GET ON THE BUS!

Appendix

The daily journal and the following tools are a sample of the Gospel Grocery Wagon Handout, Gospel Grocery Wagon Response Form, the Pre- Hunger Relief/Servant Evangelism Survey and Post-Servant Hunger Relief/Servant Evangelism Survey, Gospel Grocery Wagon Field Log, that will be used by the participants as well as some photos from the field.

Appendix 1

Daily Journal

Monday, April 13, 2020

This project leader had 17 Gospel Grocery Wagon Volunteers from Under Over Fellowship. Our team was tasked with delivering 1600 lbs. of lettuce, 30 boxes of prepackaged salad kits, and 100 bag lunches for the children in the neighborhoods. The outing lasted about 4 hours due to the nature of the food that was being delivered. The Adults in the Anglo and African American low-income housing complex, Tall Timbers, did not seem receptive at all. I believe that it had something to do with the fact that all we had to offer was lettuce and salad kits. We were able to hand out the sack lunches to the children, and they were very glad to receive the lunches. Two of our team members were able to pray with five of the children that they encountered. Team Member P and Team Member A were the team members able to engage in prayer. After handing out the lunches we moved to a trailer park that is primarily Hispanic non-English speaking residents. Our teams call this neighborhood the Water Tower. This community was so grateful for the lettuce and salad kits and as we delivered the food our Spanish-speaking team member, Team Member J, was able to share the gospel to hundreds of people with the use of a P.A. System. Team Member J was also able to pray specifically two

women Natalie and Yolanda. Both women were very receptive to the prayer for their families and we intend on returning to this community later this week. We were able to deliver 90% of the produce to this community alone and the Lord Jesus is opening doors and was truly glorified.

Tuesday, April 14, 2020

This project leader had 14 Gospel Grocery Trailer Volunteers from Under Over Fellowship. Our team was able to deliver over 150 sack lunches to children in two different complexes as well as 7 food boxes to 7 different families all over the city. One of the families that received a food box was a single mother, Jennifer, and her two boys. I was able to share the gospel with her and she assured me that she knew Jesus as Savior. We also were able to discuss her and her children attending service at Under Over after the Coronavirus passes. Just outside of Jennifer's apartment I was able to provide for a woman named Theresa who lived in her minivan with her friend Sonya. I was able to pray with her and share the church's information with her in case she needed more help. Walnut Cove was the second trailer park community that the Gospel Grocery Trailer has been able to visit this week. This community is primarily an Anglo low socio-economic community that is in a very rural area of the county. We were able to please a few families with the remaining food that we had on board. One of the families was a young couple with three kids. The wife, Susan, told me that her husband who worked at the local airport was just been laid off due to the Corona Virus issue. She was in desperate need of food, and we were able to pray for her and she received it gladly. Two other families received food in Walnut Cove as we ended the day.

Wednesday, April 15, 2020

10 Gospel Grocery Wagon volunteers from Under Over Fellowship went into two trailer park neighborhoods as well as lunches into the Tall Timbers apartment complex. In the first trailer park, called Rolling Pines, and we delivered meat, produce and milk to 30 different Hispanic families. Silverdale Trailer Park was the second trailer park that The Gospel Grocery Wagon traveled to and 22 families received food with gladness. In this community Team Member, I.M. had the opportunity to share the Gospel with a woman named Trina and she received the Lord as her Savior. Trina became the first person to receive Christ as a direct result of the ministry of the Gospel Grocery Wagon. Trina was raised Catholic and was very shy until she saw the food that the Team Members brought to her home. After seeing the food, she opened up and the Lord created an opportunity for the Gospel to be shared.

Thursday, April 16, 2020

Today, I traveled to Marble Falls, Texas to pick up a 1998 NABI transit bus that used to be a part of the San Antonio VIA bus line. This was a gift to Under Over Fellowship from missionary Dr. Fred Sorrells. This vehicle will replace the van and trailer system that is currently used as the Gospel Grocery Wagon. This bus will allow us to transport more food than the van and trailer set up, team members to and from delivery sites in the air conditioning and will allow us to keep the cold food from melting in the South Texas sun. What an amazing blessing!

Friday, April 17, 2020

Today 25 volunteers unloaded a very large shipment from the 501C3 that we partner with called Keep Us Fed. They primarily focus on food reclamation from grocery stores and restaurants. Due to the pandemic, I have seen a rise in the number of restaurants that are closing for good and are clearing out their food stores and donating to Keep Us Fed. The Gospel Grocery Wagon has received the majority of that food because the other ministries in the area are shut down because of the virus. The large amount of food that we received today has allowed the Gospel Grocery Wagon to deliver food into two very large predominantly Hispanic trailer park neighborhoods. The first trailer park is called Budde Rd. and there are thirty trailer homes in this neighborhood. The Gospel Grocery Wagon Teams were able to deliver meat, fruit, vegetables, milk, and sack lunches for the kids. During the time in this neighborhood Team Member I.M. was able to share the gospel with a mother of 4 children named Elizabeth. She received Christ as her Savior and Team Member I.M. began the process of setting up a front porch Bible Study with her and her children. Praise the Lord!

Saturday, April 18, 2020

I have officially moved into my office. The purpose behind this is so that I can create the safest environment for my family. I am constantly at high risk of exposure due to the ministry of the Gospel Grocery Wagon and I do not want to take the chance of exposing my family members who are high risk. This is difficult emotionally for this me however, it does allow me the freedom to deliver food on days like today. The Gospel Grocery Wagon began today with 13 volunteers delivering the food that was dropped off by Keep Us Fedd. It was about 1500lbs. Just as the Gospel Grocery Wagon was finishing the delivery of this food into Tall Timbers I received a phone call from a local church that was doing a drive-thru food distribution. They did not have

the turnout that they had hoped and wanted to give the rest to the Gospel Grocery Wagon to take into the neighborhoods. The GGW team gladly received another 6500lbs of frozen whole turkeys, dairy, and vegetables. With the GGW's new load of food, the team headed to the Park Village Apartment complex. Park Village is a low-income complex with two locations and roughly 150 apartments. Gospel Grocery Wagon Team Member P.N. had the opportunity to deliver food and share the Gospel with an African American gang member that lived in the first set of Park Village apartments. Although he did not make a profession of faith, he was open to speaking more about the Gospel, and Team Member P.N. was able to set up a time for them to visit more. In the second set of Park Village apartments, Team Member P.N. was able to share with another African American gentleman that was visiting his mother in the complex. With the food to create an open door, the Lord allowed Team Member P.N. to share the hope of Christ and Mr. Irving received Christ. Mr. Irving became the ninth individual to receive Christ as a direct result of the ministry of the Gospel Grocery Wagon. Team Member P.N. was able to set up an opportunity to visit more at the church for discipleship.

Monday, April 20, 2020

Today the Gospel Grocery Wagon partnered with 17 volunteers and headed to a rural neighborhood that is called Walnut Grove just north of Conroe. This area is lower socio-economic, and I was contacted by a resident asking for us to come and deliver food. The neighborhood is made up of trailer homes as well as homes that have been built out of utility sheds that can be purchased at box hardware stores. It is an extremely high area for crime and drug activity. During the outing, the Lord brought three men to repent and trust in Christ. Gospel grocery Wagon Team Member J. C. was able to share the gospel with a father and son, Trinidad

and Christian, who two of the three salvations. While Team Member J.C. was sharing the gospel Team Member I.M. was sharing with Fidel. This man also received Christ and was the third man of the three mentioned. The Gospel Grocery Wagon also experienced a very moving time as our Team Member A.C. delivered food to one specific family in Walnut Cove. The woman at this specific house had been praying that the Lord would provide for her because she was out of food. When Team Member A.C. delivered the food, she began to openly weep and praise the Lord. It was an amazing opportunity for the Gospel Grocery Wagon Team Members to see the Lord answer prayer right before our eyes.

Tuesday, April 21, 2020

The Gospel Grocery Wagon was able to deliver 250 sack lunches to the children of Tall Timbers as well as a new apartment complex named Oak Hollow.

Wednesday, April 22, 2020

Today's food was received from Keep Us Fed and I was at a loss as to where the Gospel Grocery Wagon should deliver. There is a delicate balance in ministry like this between helping and hurting. I do not want any family to become too dependent on the food that is coming from the Gospel Grocery Wagon. One way that we have determined to make sure that this doesn't happen is by spreading out the visits of the GGW to certain neighborhoods so that the people would never be able to depend solely on the food that we provide. The food that is involved in this project was never intended to become the sole source of food for a family. The intention is to help supplement a family's food resources during an extremely tough time and most importantly for the food to be a key that the Lord uses to open the door for the Gospel. So, I agreed with the

other 18 team member volunteers that we would drive until the Lord revealed where we were to go. We drove the Gospel Grocery Wagon one block and the Lord had four men waiting for us. Artemio, Rudolpho, Jose, and Juan were four Hispanic men that were not able to get work at the day labor site that is one block from the church. We have learned that these men live day by day. If they do not work, then they do not eat. We were able to share some bread and the Bread of Life. Gospel Grocery Team Member I.M. and his wife Team Member N.M. was able to share the gospel with these four men and each of them made a profession of faith in Christ. Team Members I.M. and N.M. were able to set up opportunities to continue discipleship with a phase one Bible study at the boarding house that they live in together.

We felt led to take the rest of the food that was left to deliver to families at Tall Timbers. Although the Gospel Grocery Wagon visits Tall Timbers quite often to deliver lunches to the kids we rarely can deliver food into the neighborhood because of the resistance from the management. The Gospel Grocery Wagon was able to deliver to Tall Timbers and the Lord brought two more individuals to Salvation. I am hoping that a front porch Bible study will be able to begin as soon as the State of Texas lifts the lockdown. Until then the Gospel Grocery Wagon Team Members will follow up with these new believers weekly.

Thursday, April 23, 2020

Today the Gospel Grocery Wagon began a partnership with the Montgomery County Food Bank. This partnership will allow the Gospel Grocery Wagon to deliver ten times the amount of food to the community. Today was the GGW's first pick up of 5,945lbs of food to deliver. The food that was picked up was made up of whole milk, meat, and can goods. From

this, the Gospel Grocery Team Members can make boxes en route to families all across Conroe. The Gospel Grocery Wagon had 20 volunteers that delivered to 78 families.

The GGW returned to both Park Village apartment complexes today where the Lord saved a mother, Shelby, and her teenage son, Allen. He also saved Amadeo and Daisy a sibling group that Team Member P.N. had been working with for some time. However, it was the Lord's providence that the Gospel Grocery Wagon was able to deliver food to them and open a door for the Gospel to be shared with them. The final person was a single mother named Christine. She was so blessed with the food and it was like the Lord had her waiting for us to show up. Team Members P.N. and G.J. were able to discuss the possibility of a phase two Bible study. The GGW will follow up with more food in the weeks to come.

Friday, April 24, 2020

Today was the most amazing day that I have seen in a very long time. We had 38 volunteers, 16 of which spoke Spanish, that worked two different neighborhoods and the Lord harvested twenty souls today. Praise the Lord! The first neighborhood was a Hispanic low-income trailer park community with about 45 homes called Rolling Pines. This is a community that the Gospel grocery Wagon has delivered food into before however, at that time the Spanish-speaking volunteers were not available. Today the Gospel Grocery Wagon had 5 evangelistic teams working house to house while the other team members put boxes together and delivered them to the homes that the evangelists were visiting. 12 individuals were led to Christ from this neighborhood today. Team Member W. C. and Team Member O. R. were the first to lead someone to Christ. From there the Gospel Grocery Wagon traveled to Silverdale Trailer Park where another 8 were saved. One of the most beautiful scenes today was when Team Member I.

M. came back to the GGW rejoicing as he said, "Toda la Familia." The whole family was saved. Alberto the husband, Nancy the wife, and Gloria the teenage daughter. Team Member I.M. has set up a time to begin phase 2 with this family. they are open to a front porch Bible study now. Praise the Lord!

Something is happening that I have never seen before. This truly is a harvest, but it is also strengthening. The Team Members that have been able to go out with us have truly grown in their faith as they have seen the Lord do great and mighty things. He is opening doors with food that were not open before and he is awakening his people to the power of the Gospel.

Monday, April 27, 2020

On Mondays, the Gospel Grocery Wagon receives a very large donation of fresh fruits and vegetables from the 501C3 Keep Us Fed. Today the GGW is going to take that fresh produce into a new neighborhood called Marilynn Trailer Park. This trailer park is only 3 minutes from Under Over Fellowship and is predominantly Hispanic. It is always a great adventure when the Lord leads the Gospel Grocery Wagon to a new area and the Marilynn trailer park was no different. The GGW had two evangelistic teams and 16 Team Members total for today's outing. The neighborhood was very difficult to maneuver the bus through and I had to facilitate, and 12-point turn and a dead-end down one road. Despite the driving difficulties the Lord saved a husband and a wife, Cesar, and Deisy, who normally would not have been home if it were not for the virus. I am finding that to be the case in every neighborhood that the Gospel Grocery Wagon is working in. Men and women who would be normally working are at home and in desperate need of food. The Lord also saved two other women in the Marilyn trailer park, Reina and Claudia, both ladies were led to the Lord by Team Member I.M. Team Member I.M. and Team

Member J.C. were also able to set up a phase 2 Bible study with the husband and wife that will include their children as well. This front porch Bible study will begin next week. Praise the Lord. Overall, the Gospel Grocery Wagon was able to deliver close to 1500lbs. today to 35 homes. However, the greatest number for today's record was the 4 adults that received the Lord Jesus Christ as their Savior. "Gloria de Dios!"

Wednesday, April 29, 2020

Today the Gospel grocery Wagon is picking up our second delivery from the Montgomery County Food Bank. We are receiving 4500lbs of milk, meat, canned goods, and produce that the GGW will distribute into two neighborhoods. The first is Buena Vista Trailer Park and which is comprised of about 50 Hispanic families and the second is what we are calling the D.P.S. (Department of Public Safety) trailer park. This neighborhood is made up of at least 6 streets of trailer homes with close to 100 trailers next to the local DMV. Today we have five evangelistic teams and 33 Team Members all together working the four different areas of the Gospel Grocery Wagon. The first area is the evangelistic teams and these team members are responsible for the literal sharing of the gospel door to door. The second area or job is the runner. The runner is responsible for picking up food from the GGW and bringing it to the evangelistic teams at each house. The Third job is the box maker and his or her job is to put together the boxes of cold and dry food for the runners to take to the evangelist teams. The fourth job is the director, and that person is responsible for driving the GGW and directing runners to evangelist teams that are requesting food over the radio. This is the position that I hold during most deliveries. Overall, the Gospel Grocery Wagon was able to deliver food to 83 homes and the Lord provided an unbelievable harvest of 24 individuals that made professions of faith. Each of

the individual's contact information is recorded and will be followed up upon with more food and front porch Bible studies. This is a very difficult time for discipleship and the front porch Bible study is a great way to keep moving forward and build a relationship with these new believers. Praying for the lockdown to be lifted soon so the Gospel grocery wagon can move forward into phase 2 and phase 3. Praise the Lord of the harvest!

Friday, May 1, 2020

Today was one of the hardest days physically that I have had in a very long time. The Gospel Grocery Wagon picked up 8417 lbs. of food from the Montgomery County Food Bank today and we had the pleasure of delivering that food to 125 families in a low-income apartment complex that is called Woodlands Manor. The Lord blessed us with 4 individuals that received Jesus as their Lord and Savior today. The outing itself took about 6 hours from pick up of the food at the food bank to final delivery to the 125 homes. The GGW was blessed with 28 volunteers today that did an amazing serving the Lord and sharing the Hope of Christ. After that adventure was completed, we returned to Under Over Fellowship exhausted to find another 2000lbs. of food waiting for us to be delivered. The non-profit Keep Us Fed had delivered a large amount of food while we were out delivering to Woodlands Manor. The main problem that the Gospel Grocery Wagon faces daily is a lack of cold storage for food. So, the GGW volunteers loaded this food up onto the bus and headed out for a second trip to deliver food. Team Member A.C. said, "If God can get it through us, then He will get it to us." The Gospel Grocery Wagon was able to bless another three apartment complexes with boxes of food for 47 families. One of the things that we are finding to be true is that the Lord will give Under Over Fellowship more when the church is faithful with the little that it is given. This was the case

today. The GGW 172 families with food today and 4 people are reconciled to a Holy God. Well worth every sore muscle.

Today marks three weeks since the beginning of the Gospel Grocery Wagon and the Lord has allowed us to deliver roughly 25000 lbs. of food to over 300 families. The Lord has saved 75 individuals since the beginning of the project and has allowed for at least 4 front porch Bible studies to be started in 3 different neighborhoods as soon as Texas lifts Covid-19 lockdown protocols. Praise the Lord for his goodness.

Monday, May 4, 2020

Today the Gospel Grocery Wagon received the normal produce delivery from the 501C3 Keep Us Fed. The GGW has a smaller team going out today with only two teams of evangelists and 10 Gospel Grocery Wagon volunteers to pack and run the food into the D.P.S. trailer park. The Lord gave us the strength that we needed to deliver to 40 families and four individuals were reconciled with the Lord today. Even with a small number of Team Members the process works. It is a little more work for everyone and moving through the neighborhood is slower, but the process works. I hope to share this process with other churches of all sizes that are interested in this model of church growth and evangelism. A church with a smaller volunteer base can be just as effective as a larger congregation.

Wednesday, May 6, 2020

Today the Gospel Grocery Wagon had 21 project participants who had the honor of serving in a very special community. Havenwood is an apartment community that is strictly for residents that are 65 and up. We first learned of this community during relief efforts that were a

result of Hurricane Harvey in 2017. I was made aware of the great need for food within this community. So, the Lord is leading the Gospel Grocery Wagon to share the groceries that were received from Keep Us Fed with the beautiful residents of Havenwood. Many of the residents of this community are already very solid believers in Christ and the reception today from them was more like a worship service than a food outreach. The GGW Team Members were able to make great contacts and open the door for at least 4 front porch Bible studies to begin within the next two weeks. I was extremely blessed to be able to pray with a woman named Mrs. Norma who was 98 years old. She is a believer and is confident in her salvation. I was able to minister to her caregiver during this time. Her nurse, Alicia, is a single mother of two who was struggling to keep her kids fed during the virus outbreak. The Gospel grocery Wagon was able to give her family a week worth of food. She was overwhelmed with joy and the Lord was given the glory! Not every day on the Gospel Grocery Wagon results in salvation but it does result in the Lord receiving honor and glory. He alone is worthy of praise! Thank you, Jesus, for your continued provision. 25 homes received food today.

Friday, May 8, 2020

Today the GGW picked up 5624 lbs. of food from the Montgomery County Food Bank. Word has traveled from Havenwood, the elderly community that we helped on Wednesday, to Woodland Manor another retirement community that needs food. Woodland Manor has about 150 apartment homes with residents that are 65 and older who are on a fixed income. The shortage of food at the grocery stores combined with the lack of public transportation during the lockdown has created a severe problem for the elderly that are residing in these communities. The Gospel Grocery Wagon had had 23 volunteers today and the Lord redeemed 10 people from

the slavery of their sin. What an amazing day to see Team Members sharing the hope of Christ with so many. The Lord also provided an opportunity for the Gospel Grocery Wagon to begin 3 new front porch Bible studies as well as revealing a person of peace within the community that will help the GGW teams to minister in the future.

Tuesday, May 12, 2020

Today the Gospel grocery Wagon picked up more food than ever before from the Montgomery County Food Bank. 31 GGW Team Members joined together to load 8703 lbs. of food from the food bank. This process takes about an hour to load the dry food into the trailer and the cold food into the bus. After the loading process, the Gospel Grocery Wagon headed to a new neighborhood on the east side of Conroe called Lake Wildwood. This neighborhood is a mix of Anglo and Hispanic families. The Lord blessed the Gospel grocery Wagon with 5 evangelistic teams that are mixed with English and Spanish-speaking team members. This collection of evangelists along with the high number of food runners allows the GGW to move quickly and efficiently through the neighborhood. Today's outing required a lot of walking due to how spread out the different homes were from each other. In all total, the Gospel Grocery Wagon Team Members were able to deliver food to 57 families and were blessed to see 19 professions of faith. Team Member O.R. and Team Member I.M. were able to lead an entire family to Christ. Praise the Lord. Not only were there 19 salvations but the Lord opened the door for at least 2 possible front porch Bible studies in this neighborhood. People are still very afraid of the virus and we gives thanks to the Lord for the opportunity for the possibility to continue with the 2 families. We will continue to follow up with these families in the future weeks with more food deliveries to Lake Wildwood.

Wednesday, May 13, 2020

Due to the lockdown that is associated with the virus, there are a lot of restaurants that are getting rid of food that they cannot sell. Through the partnership that the Gospel Grocery Wagon has with Keep Us Fed, we are going to begin to receive some food from the McDonald's distribution site that is just south of Conroe. McDonald's has limited their menu during the lockdown, so they are donating other foods that are not used in their current menu. So, today 16 project participants received 400 boxes of bagels (each box has 100 bagels) and 100 boxes filled with 5-gallon bags of milk. The milk is an easy food to give away especially for larger families however, the bagel is a different story. The amazing thing was that the Lord used 4000 bagels and 500 gallons of milk to save two people! We started in the Hispanic trailer park that is called Little Mexico. Anna Maria and Merlen both received Christ as their Lord and Savior. Team Member I.M. and Team Member P.N. were able to share the gospel with them and they both agreed to a front porch Bible study as well. Amazingly, the Lord allowed the Gospel Grocery Wagon to move all of the food to families in need despite the large quantities. Praise God for His great provision and the Gospel.

Friday, May 15, 2020

Today the Gospel Grocery Wagon picked up 9009 lbs. of fresh produce, meat, dairy, and canned goods at the Montgomery County Food Bank on top of the normal food deliveries that the GGW receives from Keep Us Fed. After picking up at the Food Bank we headed to a new apartment complex that is less than a mile from Under over Fellowship. Bellshire is a low-income HUD

housing apartment complex that Anglo, African American, and Hispanic families. The Gospel Grocery Wagon was blessed with 27 Team Members that reached 73 families. During today's outing, the Lord opened the door for 35 Gospel presentations and the Gospel Grocery Wagon Team Members saw 8 individuals repent of their sin and receive Christ as their Savior. Praise the Lord! The Gospel Grocery Wagon was so well received today in this neighborhood, and we only were able to reach half of the complex. I believe that the Lord is doing great work in this neighborhood and that the GGW will return next week to complete the rest of the complex. Through our contacts today The GGW team Members found 4 homes that were open to phase 2 front porch Bible studies. I will begin strategizing a way to implement that now that the restrictions here in Texas are beginning to lessen. Thank you, Lord, for the harvest.

Monday, May 18, 2020

More Bagels. Today along with the Gospel Grocery Wagon's normal extremely large Monday produce delivery we received 200 more boxes of McDonald's bagels. The GGW was blessed with 14 Team Members that were able to deliver to 37 families in two different neighborhoods. The Gospel Grocery Wagon was also blessed to have a special guest that came out to serve with the team today. Pastor Jimmy Dorrell of Church Under the Bridge in Waco, TX. Jimmy also is the director of Mission Waco and has worked with low-income families in the Waco area for the last 30 years. He has been a great resource and mentor for me for many years and it truly was great to have him work with the Gospel Grocery Wagon. One of the things that Pastor Dorrell and I discussed was the possibility of sharing the Gospel grocery wagon with other churches that are looking for ways to reach their communities for Christ. I believe that this process can be recreated at any church regardless of the size of the congregation.

As exciting as it was to have Pastor Dorrell it was even more exciting to see five individuals pass from death life and receive Christ. Team Member J.C. and Team Member I.M. were the evangelists that led the 5 to Christ. Thank you, Jesus, for your grace.

Wednesday, May 20, 2020

McDonald's strikes again. Today the Gospel Grocery Wagon received 1200 lbs. of McDonald's hamburger patties. Once again due to the limited space that the GGW has for cold food storage we must deliver all the meat today. The good news is that moving 1200 lbs. of hamburger patties is a lot easier than moving 4000 bagels. The Lord has provided 15 Team Members today to work the fields that are ripe for the harvest. The Gospel Grocery Wagon was able to deliver food to 61 families in 4 different complexes. Woodhaven (the elderly community close to Under Over) Buena Vista trailer park, Bellshire, and Tall Timbers. The Lord used this abundance of meat to open the door for 19 Gospel shares and 7 salvations. Team Member P.N. was able to lead a young African American gang member to Christ and has established a front porch Bible study that will begin next week. Praise the Lord for the opportunity to share His Word.

Friday, May 22, 2020

The Gospel Grocery Wagon picked up and delivered 8227 lbs. of produce, meat, dairy, and canned goods from the Montgomery County Food Bank today. The Wagon will be returning to Bellshire to pick up with the second half of the apartment complex that did not receive food last week. Today we are blessed with 15 Team Members to work the Gospel Grocery Wagon and the Lord has truly blessed their efforts with 7 individuals trusting Christ. The days are getting

tougher with the temperatures with highs in the low 90's. I realized that our outings will have to move more into the later afternoons as the summer progresses in hopes of cooler temperatures. The struggle is the Food Bank because the latest that we can pick up food is 2:30. The Gospel Grocery wagon then has to try and maintain the food at a proper temperature until the late afternoon. I know that the Lord has an answer. The one thing that I do know for sure is that the Lord is doing mighty work in the Bellshire apartment complex. At the end of the day today the Lord had not only saved 7 but He also opened 17 homes that said they wanted a weekly Bible study. We will begin phase 2 in Bellshire next week. Thank you, Jesus!

The outing on Friday, May 22, 2020, marks the end of six weeks that the Gospel Grocery Wagon has been working in the surrounding communities in Conroe. In those 6 weeks, we have seen amazing things that the Lord has done. The Lord brought 62 individuals to salvation during these 3 weeks. So, total up to this point the Gospel Grocery Wagon has seen 139 professions of faith. The Lord has also provided over 38000 lbs. of food this 3 weeks to total over 63000 lbs. thus far that has been delivered to over 700 families. The struggle for us is discipleship during a pandemic. However, with the lockdown in Texas lifted the Gospel Grocery Wagon intends on implementing phases 2 and 3 next week. With 17 front porch Bible studies planned for Wednesday night.

Tuesday, May 26, 2020

Today the Gospel Grocery Wagon Team Members had a scare as we delivered food to a house where someone was under quarantine for COVID-19. Fortunately, for Team Member P.N. and Team Member I.M. they did not make contact with the person but left the food on the front porch. The individual was extremely grateful for the food and will be a great contact after his

quarantine is over. This event occurred in a newly discovered trailer park just north of Under Over Fellowship. The GGW was also able to visit Rolling Pines trailer park where a Husband, wife, and preteen child was saved. What and Team Member I.M. was the one who was able to lead the family to Christ. What an amazing miracle to see an entire family pass from death to life! 48 families in all were blessed with fresh produce and meat from the partnership that the Gospel Grocery Wagon has with Keep Us Fed. 18 project participants today. It was truly a great day.

Wednesday, May 28, 2020

Today the Gospel Grocery Wagon sent out 8 teams comprised of 17 GGW Team Members to lead 17 Front Porch Bible studies in Bellshire and Havenwood. Phase 2 of the Gospel Grocery Wagon consists of a 4-week front porch Bible study that will help build a relationship with the families in Bellshire and Havenwood. The goal would be to eventually at the end of the 4-week process to move them to phase 3 which is incorporating them into the corporate worship of Under Over Fellowship. Each of the teams will bring food with them each week to the families that have been assigned to them. This weekly gift will prayerfully help build a report between the teams and the families as they lead the Bible studies. The first week is a simple meet and greet, food delivery, exchange of phone numbers, and prayer. The next four weeks' worth of meetings that follow are very simple 15-minute Bible studies that I have designed to reinforce the Gospel. Using John 14:6 as the model the simple Bible studies share with the families the WAY of the gospel, the TRUTH of the gospel, and the LIFE of the gospel. The final week is an opportunity for the Team Member to invite the family to join in corporate

worship at Under Over Fellowship on Sunday or Wednesday. The church will even provide the transportation.

Friday, May 30, 2020

Today the Gospel Grocery Wagon has 40 Team Members with ten of those members making up 5 evangelistic teams. The GGW is headed out to a community east of Conroe called Grangerland and our teams are a mix of English and Spanish speakers. The Lord has blessed the day with 5379 lbs. of fresh produce, milk, and meat that was delivered to 52 families. The Gospel Grocery Wagon ended the day with 71 Gospel shares and 14 people repenting of their sin and trusting Christ as Savior. This work is truly a great work that the Lord has called the team members to. It is exhausting, hard, spiritually draining work but it is a great work indeed. I am working with Team Members L.W. and S.W. who live in this area about starting front porch Bible studies with those that made professions of faith. Also, some of the individuals that made professions of faith today have expressed a desire to join Under Over Fellowship in person this Sunday. So, it looks like the Gospel Grocery Wagon is going to be picking some new believers up this Sunday for church. I have also reached out to a fellow pastor who pastors a church in this immediate area who would like to help with the phase two follow-up.

Monday, June 1, 2020

Today was the Gospel Grocery Wagon's weekly Monday produce delivery. The GGW received 60 boxes of fresh fruit and vegetables that were ready to deliver to the community. The Wagon will be returning to the Marilyn trailer park to deliver food to the families that we had

previously made contact with as well as new families that are home today. The day was a normal hot Texas day of food delivery and the people in the Marilyn trailer park were overjoyed to receive the blessing. As the Gospel Grocery Wagon was delivering to the last trailer a call came through from the church. We learned of a man that had walked miles from the trailer park that he lives in on the outskirts of town to find food. Someone had directed him to Under Over Fellowship. After visiting with him one of the church pastors gave him some food and called the Gospel Grocery Wagon to see if it was possible to head to that trailer park with food. All of the Team Members agreed that we should head back to the church reload and head out to Residence RV. When we arrived at Residence RV we found multiple households that were openly weeping at the sight of food. These people were desperate and had been hit hard with the lockdown. The Gospel Grocery Wagon was able to minister to 25 households in which 1 person received Christ and 10 individuals wanted to attend church on Sunday. Praise God! 10 People committed to phase 3 (attending corporate worship) at Under Over Fellowship. 60 families in all received food! This was truly a blessed day indeed.

Wednesday, June 3, 2020

Not all of the Front Porch Bible Studies started last week are going to make it to the actual study portion of the process. I knew that this was going to be the case and that this phase would be a time that would weed out anyone that was not serious about the desire for Bible study. however, the good news is that we have gained some this week to help balance those that we lost more. So tonight 8 teams will reach out to 15 families at Bellshire and Havenwood. I am very excited to see the growth in the Gospel Grocery Wagon Team Members that have

committed to lead the front porch Bible studies. The Lord is strengthening their faith and they are testifying to what the Lord is doing in these homes. Team Member P.W. and Team Member D.W. met with Cynthia who had just moved in the other day to her apartment. They had a wonderful bible study and Cynthia has become the person of peace in Havenwood. She has already invited her neighbor to join her next week. She also desires to join Under Over Fellowship in Phase 3 corporate worship on Sunday morning. Praise the Lord.

Friday, June 5, 2020

Today the Gospel Grocery Wagon had a morning delivery of food that was delivered by Keep Us Fed. The GGW took this food to Buena Vista Trailer Park and blessed 15 families. While the Gospel Grocery Wagon was working in this neighborhood a single mother walked from two streets over to meet the GGW and asked if she could have some food. We followed the leading of the Spirit and decided to deliver food to her whole street. The Lord knows what He is doing. It was during this delivery that Team Member P.N. met a 14-year-old boy named Saul that was raised in a very Catholic family. His family needed food and He was in desperate need of the gospel. Saul received Christ and his family was very open to having a front porch Bible study with Team Member I.M. The Lord has truly blessed us with some wonderful Spanish Speaking project participants from the Gospel Grocery Wagon's Hispanic church partners. The afternoon delivery was just as awesome as the GGW returned to the Grangerland area where the Gospel Grocery Wagon Team Members from Seven different churches met together to deliver 5,498 lbs. of food to over 53 families. The Lord blessed the outing and the GGW Team members were able to see 12 more individuals receive Christ. All of these individuals were Spanish speakers, so it was a blessing to have GGW Team members from Iglesia Bautista Emmanuel

there to set up phase 2 contact with the new believers. 13 passed from death to life. Praise the Lord.

Sunday, June 7, 2020

What a glorious day! I drove the Gospel Grocery Wagon to pick up 10 individuals that desired to partake in phase 3 or in-person corporate worship at Under Over. These ten people were a direct result of the Lord using the Gospel Grocery Wagon to deliver food partnered with the gospel. The Lord provided 9 from Residence RV and 1 from Havenwood. It was truly an amazing time together.

Monday, June 8, 2020

Today the Gospel Grocery Wagon had the opportunity to return to the Rolling Pines trailer park. This community is a very warm and welcoming place. As the Gospel Grocery Wagon drives through a community gospel music is played over the loudspeaker and it draws families out to meet us like an ice cream truck's music did when I was a child. The music draws everyone in the neighborhood outside to wait for us. The GGW was blessed to have 15 volunteers that delivered gallons of milk and boxes of fresh fruit and vegetables to 30 families. During this delivery Team Member I.M. had the opportunity to revisit a past recipient of food and share the gospel again. This time the Lord provided a harvest! Susanna repented of her sin and placed her faith in Christ. Praise the Lord. Some might look at the 5 to 6 hours of very hot hard work that went into today as a waste for just one profession of faith. Working the field for the harvest is hard work and the result is worth the effort even if it is just one.

Wednesday, June 10, 2020

Wednesdays are long days for the Team Members of the Gospel Grocery Wagon. The GGW had deliveries to two different neighborhoods in the morning and 10 Phase 2 Front Porch Bible Studies in the afternoon. That is not to even mention the 8 phase, 3 individuals, that the Gospel Grocery Wagon picked up to attend Under Over Fellowship's Wednesday Night Bible Study. Today the wagon had 21 volunteers that delivered groceries to the Buena Vista trailer park as well as a new trailer park called the Anderson trailer park. After delivering groceries and the gospel to a specific family in the Buena Vista trailer park the GGW Team Members learned that an entire family of 3 received Christ. This was the third time in a month and a half that Team Member I.M. and Team Member J.C. delivered food and shared the gospel with this Catholic family. The salvations were not the only reason to celebrate concerning this family. In their front yard, they had a demonic statue of the Mary of Guadalupe that they worshipped. They are ready to begin their new life in Christ with Front Porch Bibles Studies and the eventual removal of the statue from their front yard. From Buena Vista trailer park the Gospel Grocery Wagon traveled the Anderson trailer park and delivered food to 25 families. This new neighborhood was very receptive, and the Lord provided 3 more souls to the harvest. Praise God for the partnership that the Gospel Grocery Wagon has with the Team Members from Iglesia Bautista Getsemani. Team Member O.R. from Getsemani is going to follow up with phase 2 Bible Study because the new believers are Spanish speakers, and this trailer park is less than half a mile from the church. After leaving the Anderson trailer park the Gospel Grocery Wagon shifted gears to 10 Front Porch Bible studies that were led in Bellshire and Havenwood apartments. The Wagon also was able to pick up 8 phase 3 individuals from Tall Timbers, Bellshire, and Havenwood for Wednesday Night Bible Study. Praise the Lord!

Friday, June 12, 2020

Today the Gospel Grocery Wagon picked up its largest load of food to date. Along with the food that was delivered from the 501C3 Keep Us Fed the Gospel Grocery Wagon received 11881 lbs. from the Montgomery County Food Bank. The GGW was also blessed to have 35 Team Members from seven different Gospel Grocery Wagon partner churches. I felt led to return to two neighborhoods that the GGW Team Members have received an unbelievably warm reception. So, The Gospel Grocery Wagon headed back to little Mexico trailer park where the Lord allowed the GGW Team Members to share the Gospel and groceries with 27 homes and the Lord brought 5 people to a right relationship with Himself through the finished work of His Son. The Team Members were treated with homemade tamales from a person of peace in the neighborhood named Mrs. Rosa. She was so blessed the GGW has been sharing the Good News and groceries with her neighbors that she wanted to bless the Team Members with a little snack. I have never tasted a better tamale. From Little Mexico trailer park, The Gospel Grocery Trailer returned to the Anderson Trailer Park that the GGW started in on Wednesday. Once again, the Wagon was well received and the Lord added 1 more believer with phase 2 Front Porch Bible Studies being followed up with GGW Team Member O.R. In all the Gospel Grocery Wagon saw 6 come to know Christ as Savior, established 1 Front Porch Bible Study and delivered over 11000 lbs. of food to 97 households. Thank you, Jesus, for another beautiful day.

Friday, June 12, 2020, ended 9 weeks that the Gospel Grocery wagon has been feeding souls and feeding people. I am so excited about the progress thus far. This system is being recreated in four other churches throughout Montgomery County and a coalition of GGW Team Members across 12 churches are joining together to see families come to know Christ, be

discipled, and be integrated into local churches. When the Gospel Grocery Wagon first began it was about reaching the community around Under Over Fellowship and developing a church growth model for a very unattractive church. In the last 9 weeks, the Lord has grown my vision to include pastors from 5 different churches who all work together to reach the county. It has truly been an amazing work of the Holy Spirit as Team Members have grown in their boldness in sharing the gospel. The box of food is the key that the Lord uses to open the door for the gospel. I am truly blessed to be a part of this great work. In the last nine weeks the Lord has provided over 95000 lbs. of food for FREE, 100's of Gospel shares, 37 volunteers, 183 Salvations, 14 Phase 2 Bible Studies, 23 Phase 3 individuals that are now integrated into Under Over Fellowship, and two other Hispanic Baptist Churches. Praise the Lord!

Sunday, June 14, 2020

Today the Gospel Grocery Wagon was able to pick up 10 phase 3 individuals for Under Over Fellowship's corporate Sunday service. These 10 individuals from three separate neighborhoods, Residence RV, Bellshire, and Havenwood, are a direct result of the gospel and food delivery through the Gospel Grocery Wagon. GGW Team Member I.M. also recorded 10 phase 3 individuals that attended Iglesia Bautista Hispana de Conroe as well as 3 phase 3 individuals attending GGW Team Member O.R.'s church Iglesia Bautista Getsemani. So, in total 23 individuals were incorporated into a local church today as a direct result of the ministry of the Gospel Grocery Wagon.

Wednesday, June 17, 2020

As things begin to open back up in Texas two things that we have noticed is that the Gospel Grocery Wagon is not as effective earlier in the day at reaching people at home and secondly, the availability of food has decreased now that more people are out. This is not necessarily bad news because it means that the GGW will make deliveries later in the afternoons when more people are at home and the temperatures are a little milder. It also means that the Gospel Grocery Wagon can become more specific in the days set aside for delivery into the neighborhoods. This is also a positive because the GGW Team Members were faithfully serving almost 4 out of 5 days of the week during the height of the virus and it was exhausting. We can rest a little. Today, the Gospel Grocery Wagon focused mainly on the 8 Front Porch Bible Studies that Under Over Fellowship is facilitating. The GGW also picked up 8 for Wednesday Night Bible Study. In Bible Study tonight one of the ladies from Residence RV professed Christ and desires to be baptized and join the church. I will have the honor of baptizing her this coming Sunday. Some of the Phase 2 Bible Studies have fallen off but the Lord has 8 solid families that are dedicated to the Bible Studies in Bellshire apartments as well as in Havenwood. Praise the Lord.

Friday, June 19, 2020

Today the Gospel Grocery Wagon was able to pick up 10290 lbs. from the Montgomery County Food Bank. The GGW had 21 Team Members that were able to distribute food to 137 families. The primary focus of our deliveries today was in Bellshire, Pecan Grove, Rosewood, and Tall Timbers. These are some of the hardest-hit apartment complexes by COVID-19 as far as a lack of food. The response was amazing. The people were so grateful and open to prayer. Team

Member P.N. had the opportunity to lead a man to Christ in Tall Timbers. He has set up a time for Phase 2 Bible Study with him and amazing two other gang members in the neighborhood. Today was also filled with a lot of follow up with individuals that had made a profession of faith over the last two months. It has been difficult for some to even have the courage to participate in the Front Porch Bible Studies. However, the GGW will maintain contact with these individuals, building a relationship, through food delivery in hopes that one day they will be comfortable to take the next step.

Sunday, June 21, 2020

Thank you, Jesus, for your abundant grace! Today, I had the pleasure of picking up 10 phase 3 individuals from 3 different communities for Under Over Fellowship's Sunday service. It was a beautiful day of worship and the Word that was topped off with the baptism of a young mother named Sabrina. Sabrina came to Under Over as a result of the Gospel Grocery Wagon. Her family has been attending for about 3 weeks and last Wednesday she received Christ as Savior and followed the Lord today in Believer's baptism. Praise God!

Monday, June 22, 2020

The Gospel Grocery Wagon received its normal Monday produce delivery plus some! The amount of food received today was enough to feed 47 families. The Gospel Grocery Wagon had 19 volunteers that delivered to Rolling Pines trailer park and Silverdale trailer park. It is so rewarding to see the joy on people's faces as they come out to greet the GGW and its Team Members. I can see the Lord working in the neighborhoods that the Gospel Grocery Wagon has

been ministering in. No salvations today but the Lord received the glory that He was due as many families received food in His glorious name. AMEN.

Wednesday, June 24, 2020

Today's data is the same as last Wednesday. The GGW had 8 Teams lead the Front Porch Bible Studies at 8 different homes. 6 of these Bible studies are being held at Bellshire and the other 2 are at Havenwood. Mrs. Cynthia from Havenwood is a part of the Bible studies in the apartment complex then she rides with Team Members P.W. and D.W. to Under Over Fellowship to join in the corporate worship. The GGW also was able to pick up 8 phase 3 individuals that attended Under Over's Wednesday Night Bible Study. Praise the Lord.

Friday, June 26, 2020

Today Team Member P.N. was involved in serious spiritual warfare that resulted in the Salvation of an African American man from the Bellshire apartment complex. The entire time that he was sharing the gospel attacks was going on all around them. However, the Lord prevailed! Team Member P.N. was able to lead this man to the Lord as he joined 20 other Team Members who delivered food to 61 families in three different neighborhoods. The GGW visited Buena Vista, Bellshire, and Wedgewood Pines. I want to point out that the reason that the Gospel Grocery Wagon frequents apartment complexes like Bellshire so often because the place is huge. Bellshire has 30 buildings with at least 10 apartments in each building. It will take the GGW Team Members at least two visits to completely visit every home. The Gospel Grocery Wagon is not meant to become a family's sole provider of food. The purpose is to help supplement a

family's food needs while opening a door for the Gospel to be presented. Thank the Lord that was the case today and the Lord added to the harvest.

Sunday, June 28, 2020

Today the Gospel Grocery Wagon picked up 8 phase 3 individuals for corporate worship at Under Over Fellowship. Iglesia Bautista Hispana de Conroe had 10 Phase 3 in worship today and Iglesia Bautista Getsemani had 7 Phase 3 in their corporate worship services today. Praise the Lord!

Thursday, July 2, 2020

Today the Gospel Grocery Wagon picked up 11097 pounds of food that was delivered to 127 homes by 27 volunteers. The Wagon's outing was to a new area just north of Conroe. Today was filled with follow up with 25 good contacts that the GGW Team Members had with previous food deliveries. we also entered into a couple of new trailer parks as well as 1 new low-income apartment complex called Willis Pines. This was a glorious day as the Lord added 7 to His Kingdom as individuals trusted in the Way, Truth, and Life! This was also a wonderful day in regards to the possibility of planting a new church in this area as direct result of the Gospel Grocery Wagon's ministry. Pray for laborers because the harvest is great, but the laborers are few. This marks the end of twelve weeks that the Gospel Grocery Wagon project has been in full swing. What the Lord has done in the last 12 weeks has been miraculous. 190 professions of faith, 18 Phase 2 Bible Studies between Under Over Fellowship and GGW partner church Iglesia Bautista Getsemani, and GGW partner church Iglesia Bautista Hispana de Conroe, as well as 27 individuals integrated into corporate worship in the local church. 10 into Under Over Fellowship,

10 into Iglesia Bautista Hispana de Conroe, and 7 into Iglesia Bautista Getsemani. 1 baptism, 42 volunteers trained in GGW the Evangelism tool, over 1,000 Gospel shares, over 230000 lbs. of food delivered, and 1 new church start. I give all of the glory to Jesus Christ because there is no way that this would have been possible without the Lord. This is impossible with men. This is not the end of next week the GGW continues its work partnering the gospel with food for the glory of God. Pray for an even greater harvest.

Appendix 2

Gospel Grocery Wagon Response Form

Name: _____ Date: _____

Apt.# _____

Prayer: _____

Decisions: _____

Would like to attend church? _____ Phone Number: _____

Gospel Grocery Wagon Response Form

Name: _____ Date: _____

Apt.# _____

Prayer: _____

Decisions: _____

Would like to attend church? _____ Phone Number: _____

Appendix 3

Gospel Grocery Wagon Under Over Fellowship Volunteer Project Participant Pre-Survey

Using the following scale, please respond to the following statements:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Strongly Disagree

Uncertain

Agree Strongly

1. ____ Servant evangelism is a practical way of showing God's love.
2. ____ When I serve others it is just like serving the Lord Jesus.
3. ____ I feel comfortable serving people that are different than me.
4. ____ I am confident in my salvation.
5. ____ I am comfortable with sharing what the Lord has done for me.
6. ____ I feel comfortable in my understanding of the gospel.
7. ____ I am ready to share the gospel with a stranger.
8. ____ I see food ministry as a viable way to start conversations about the gospel.
9. ____ I believe that servant evangelism is a valid way to promote church growth.
10. ____ I am willing to be an active part of the John 14:6 Front Porch Bible Study with anyone that receives Christ through the Gospel Grocery Wagon.
11. ____ I believe that the integration of individuals into Under Over Fellowship that are saved through the Gospel Grocery Wagon will be an easy task.
12. ____ I believe that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is more important than my comfort.
13. ____ I am willing to sacrifice for the sake of the Gospel to see Conroe, TX turned upside down for Christ.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Appendix 4
Gospel Grocery Wagon Under Over Fellowship Project Participant Post-Survey

Using the following scale, please respond to the following statements:

- | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|---|---|-----------|---|---|---|----------------|---|----|
| <hr/> | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Strongly Disagree | | | Uncertain | | | | Agree Strongly | | |
-
1. ____ Servant evangelism is a practical way of showing God's love.
 2. ____ When I serve others it is just like serving the Lord Jesus.
 3. ____ I feel more comfortable serving people that are different than I did before the project started.
 4. ____ I am confident in my salvation.
 5. ____ I am more comfortable with sharing what the Lord has done for me than I was before the project started.
 6. ____ I feel more comfortable in my understanding of the gospel than I did before the project started.
 7. ____ I am ready to share the gospel with a stranger.
 8. ____ I see food ministry as a viable way to start conversations about the gospel.
 9. ____ I believe that servant evangelism is a valid way to promote church growth.
 10. ____ I am willing to be an active part of the John 14:6 Front Porch Bible Study with anyone that receives Christ through the Gospel Grocery Wagon.
 11. ____ I believe that the integration of individuals into Under Over Fellowship that are saved through the Gospel Grocery Wagon has been an easy task.
 12. ____ I believe that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is more important than my comfort.
 13. ____ I am willing to sacrifice for the sake of the Gospel to see Conroe, TX turned upside down for Christ.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Appendix 5

08/31/2019

Jerry Vineyard
Doctoral Candidate/ Lead Pastor Under Over Fellowship
Under Over Fellowship
600 S Frazier St.
Conroe, TX 77301

Dear Under Over Fellowship member:

As a graduate student in the School of Divinity at Liberty University, I am conducting research as part of the requirements for a Doctoral of Ministry degree. The title of my research project is A Study of Hunger Relief-Based Outreach as a Model of Church Growth for the Unattractual Church. The purpose of my research is to provide hunger relief while creating opportunities for the residents to voluntarily know Jesus Christ personally in hopes they might be added as members of Under Over Fellowship. and I am writing to invite you to participate in my study as a Gospel Grocery Trailer Team Member.

If you are 18 years of age or older, and are willing to participate, you will be asked to attend five evangelism training that will be held at Under Over's main campus during the first week of the project. After completing the training volunteers are asked to participate as a Team Member of the Gospel Grocery Trailer as it serves food and shares the gospel. It should take approximately 2.5 hours once a week for 12 weeks for you to volunteer during the practical phase of the project. You will also be invited to participate in a 1-hour celebration/recap of the Gospel Grocery Trailer during week 14. Your name and/or other identifying information will be requested as part of your/ participation, but the information will remain confidential.

To participate please find the training outline and consent document that is included in this handout. The training outline is for you to keep however, the consent document contains additional information about my research, please sign the consent document and return it at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Jerry Vineyard
Doctoral Candidate/Lead Pastor Under Over Fellowship

Appendix 6

CONSENT FORM

A Study of Hunger Relief-Based Outreach as a Model of Church Growth for the Unattractual Church

Jerry Vineyard
Liberty University
School of Divinity

You are invited to be in a research study as a volunteer team member for the Gospel Grocery Trailer. You were selected as a possible participant because you are above the age of 18 and are a member of Under Over Fellowship that is in good standing. Please read this form and ask any questions you may have before agreeing to be in the study.

Jerry Vineyard, a doctoral candidate in the School of Divinity at Liberty University, is conducting this study.

Background Information: The purpose of this study is to determine if a long-term hunger relief/servant evangelism project can be a viable vehicle for Under Over Fellowship to reach into the local community with the gospel, see lives changed through the power of Christ, and then integrate those new believers into the church called Under Over Fellowship.

Procedures: If you agree to be in this study, I would ask you to do the following things:

1. Volunteers will be asked to participate in a pre-project survey. As well as Attend four John 14:6 Evangelism Tool/Gospel Grocery Training during the first week of the project as well as a prayer meeting the Sunday night at the end of week. The training meetings are no more than two hours each and dinner will be provided. The Sunday prayer meeting at the end of week one will last about an hour and a half.
2. Attend one of the two Gospel Grocery Wagon events a week for 12 weeks. Volunteers will arrive at the church between 4:30 p.m. and 5:00 pm. to pray and load Gospel Grocery Trailer. At 5:00 p.m. volunteer teams will accompany the Gospel Grocery Trailer into a predertimed neighborhood, trailer park, or apartment complex for a hunger relief/servant evangelism event. The actual outing should last no more than an hour and a half. After all the food has been distributed teams will return to Under Over Fellowship to debrief and pray. This should last half an hour. As the project progress project participants will be asked to participate in John 14:6 Front Porch Bible Studies for the purpose of discipling the new believers. These Bible studies should last no more than 20 minutes.
3. Volunteers will be asked to participate in a post-project survey. As well as attend a celebration/recap meeting during week 15 to rejoice in what the Lord has done during the Gospel Grocery Trailer project. The celebration should last about an hour to an hour and a half.

Risks: The risks involved in this study are minimal, which means they are equal to the risks you would encounter in everyday life.

Benefits: The first benefit for volunteers to the Gospel Grocery Wagon would be to learn an evangelism tool that will help you share the gospel more effectively. Secondly, to be a part of the Lord's work as you volunteer to share the hope of Christ, pray with those in need of prayer, and feeding the hungry in our community. Finally, to participate in Christ changing families, neighborhoods, and the City of Conroe.

Compensation: Participants will not be compensated for participating in this study.

Confidentiality: The records of this study will be kept private. I may share the data I collect from you for use in future research studies or with other researchers; if I share the data that I collect about you, I will remove any information that could identify you, if applicable, before I share the data.

Conflicts of Interest Disclosure: Your participation as a volunteer in this research is voluntary, and no action will be taken against an individual based on his or her decision to participate in this study.

Your decision whether or not to participate will not affect your current or future relations with Liberty University. If you decide to participate, you are free to not answer any question or withdraw at any time without affecting those relationships.

Contacts and Questions: If you have any questions or concerns regarding this study and would like to talk to someone other than the researcher, **you are encouraged** to contact the Institutional Review Board, 1971 University Blvd., Green Hall Ste. 2845, Lynchburg, VA 24515 or email at irb@liberty.edu.

Please notify the researcher if you would like a copy of this information for your records.

Statement of Consent: I have read and understood the above information. I have asked questions and have received answers. I consent to participate in the study.

☐ The researcher has my permission to photograph me as part of my participation in this study.

Signature of Participant

Date

Signature of Investigator

Date

Appendix 7

Gospel Grocery Wagon Field Log

Date	# of Prayer	# of Decisions	# of Food Recipients	lbs. of food

JOHN 14:6 FRONT PORCH BIBLE STUDY #1

THE WAY OF THE GOSPEL

PRAYER REQUESTS:

IT ALL STARTED IN THE GARDEN. READ GENESIS 3...

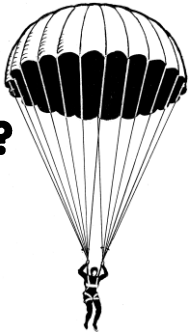
"THEREFORE, JUST AS SIN CAME INTO THE WORLD THROUGH ONE MAN, AND DEATH THROUGH SIN, AND SO DEATH SPREAD TO ALL MEN BECAUSE ALL SINNED-" (ROMANS 5:12)

THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE DO THINGS OUR WAY...

DID YOU EVER MAKE A PARACHUTE WHEN YOU WERE A KID?

HOW DID IT WORK OUT? PARACHUTE A VERY PARTICULAR...

"THERE IS A WAY THAT SEEMS RIGHT TO A MAN, BUT ITS END IS THE WAY TO DEATH." (PROVERBS 14:12)



GOD PROVIDED A BETTER WAY...

- **READ ISAIAH 53:4-6 AND DISCUSS.**
- **READ MICAH 5:2 AND DISCUSS.**
- **READ MATHEW 2:1-2 AND DISCUSS.**
- **READ JOHN 1:29 AND DISCUSS.**

JESUS IS THE BETTER WAY... HE IS THE RIGHT PARACHUTE!

PRAY... HOMEWORK: WRITE OUT YOUR TESTIMONY FOR NEXT WEEK!

**THE GOSPEL GROCERY WAGON CAN PICK YOU UP FOR CHURCH.
CALL 936-447-0258 FOR A RIDE! GET ON THE BUS!**



JOHN 14:6 FRONT PORCH BIBLE STUDY #2

THE TRUTH OF THE GOSPEL

PRAYER REQUESTS:

SHARE YOUR TESTIMONY!

THE BIG 3 TRUTHS

"FOR I DELIVERED TO YOU AS OF FIRST IMPORTANCE WHAT I ALSO RECEIVED: THAT CHRIST DIED FOR OUR SINS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SCRIPTURES, THAT HE WAS BURIED, THAT HE WAS RAISED ON THE THIRD DAY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SCRIPTURES, AND THAT HE APPEARED TO CEPHAS, THEN TO THE TWELVE. ⁶THEN HE APPEARED TO MORE THAN FIVE HUNDRED BROTHERS AT ONE TIME, MOST OF WHOM ARE STILL ALIVE, THOUGH SOME HAVE FALLEN ASLEEP. THEN HE APPEARED TO JAMES, THEN TO ALL THE APOSTLES. LAST OF ALL, AS TO ONE UNTIMELY BORN, HE APPEARED ALSO TO ME." (1 CORINTHIANS 15:3-8)

- JESUS DIED FOR OUR SINS...READ ROMANS 5:8 AND DISCUSS.
- JESUS ROSE FROM THE DEAD...READ LUKE 24:1-12 AND DISCUSS.
- JESUS WAS SEEN BY MANY...READ LUKE 24:13-49 AND DISCUSS.

REMEMBER THE PARACHUTE FROM LAST WEEK...THERE ARE MANY PROOFS THAT PARACHUTES WORK!

IN THE SAME WAY, THERE ARE MANY PROOFS FOR THE **BIG 3**.

- THE EMPTY TOMB
- MANY WITNESSES
- CONVERTS WHO DID NOT BELIEVE BEFORE THE RESURRECTION...JAMES AND PAUL

PRAY... HOMEWORK: READ THE FIRST 5 CHAPTERS OF THE GOSPEL OF JOHN.

THE GOSPEL GROCERY WAGON CAN PICK YOU UP FOR CHURCH. CALL 936-447-0258 FOR A RIDE! GET ON THE BUS!

JOHN 14:6 FRONT PORCH BIBLE STUDY #3



THE LIFE OF THE GOSPEL

PRAYER REQUESTS:

RECAP THE **BIG 3...**

REMEMBER THE PARACHUTE... IT CAN ONLY SAVE A PERSON IF THAT PERSON STEPS OUT OF THE PLANE AND TRUSTS COMPLETELY IN THE PARACHUTE.

IN THE SAME WAY, FOR JESUS TO SAVE US, WE MUST...

- **ADMIT THAT NEED A PARTICULAR PARACHUTE (JESUS). OURS ISN'T GOOD ENOUGH.**
- **BELIEVE THAT PARACHUTES EXIST AND WORK. (HEB. 11:6)**
- **TRUST COMPLETELY IN THE PARTICULAR PARACHUTE (JESUS)**

"AND WITHOUT FAITH, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PLEASE HIM, FOR WHOEVER WOULD DRAW NEAR TO GOD MUST BELIEVE THAT HE EXISTS AND THAT HE REWARDS THOSE WHO SEEK HIM." (HEBREWS 11:6)

- **READ ROMANS 10:9-10 AND DISCUSS.**
- **READ ROMANS 10:13 AND DISCUSS.**
- **READ EPHESIANS 2:8-10 AND DISCUSS.**

PRAY.

HOMEWORK: READ CHAPTERS 6-10 OF THE GOSPEL OF JOHN.



THE GOSPEL GROCERY WAGON CAN PICK YOU UP FOR CHURCH. CALL 936-447-0258 FOR A RIDE! GET ON THE BUS!

JOHN 14:6 FRONT PORCH BIBLE STUDY #3

THE LIFE OF THE GOSPEL

PRAYER REQUESTS:

RECAP FAITH.

"NOT NEGLECTING TO MEET TOGETHER, AS IS THE HABIT OF SOME, BUT ENCOURAGING ONE ANOTHER, AND ALL THE MORE AS YOU SEE THE DAY DRAWING NEAR." (HEBREWS 10:25)

LET'S TALK ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF THE LOCAL CHURCH...

- **READ MATTHEW 18:20 AND DISCUSS.**
- **READ ACTS 2:43-47 AND DISCUSS.**
- **READ PROVERBS 27:17 AND DISCUSS.**
- **READ JAMES 5:14 AND DISCUSS.**

THE LOCAL CHURCH IS THE VEHICLE THAT THE LORD CREATED TO REACH THE WORLD FOR CHRIST. SO...

JOIN ME THIS SUNDAY!

- **BREAKFAST AND SUNDAY SCHOOL
AT 9:30**
- **WORSHIP AT 10:30**
- **LUNCH AT 11:30**

JOIN ME ON WEDNESDAY NIGHTS!

- **DINNER AT 5:45**
- **WORSHIP AND BIBLE STUDY
AT 6:30**



**CALL 936-447-0258 FOR A RIDE TO
CHURCH. GET ON THE BUS!**

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